

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

Like all other sectors and projects, the COVID-19 pandemic has also affected the implementation of Higher Education Development Program. Since the beginning of the outbreak, particularly, the imposed nationwide lockdown in all educational centers. The encouraging point is that the program has been progressing well with respect to the core thematic areas. Some 2020 targets have already been achieved, while the rest are on track to be achieved. It's expected that most of the planned activities will be executed, with time extension and alternative modalities, where applicable. This report presents the latest progress of the program for the months of March-May 2020. The report also illustrates the cumulative progress of each thematic area.

With respect to the female enrolment, the data stands the same as reported in the previous report. The total student's enrollment in priority disciplines stands at 86,225 (18,842 Females and 67,373 Males), exceeding the annual target of 2020. Similarly, the first-year enrollment of female students stand at 5,558 exceeding the target of 2020. The program is to undertake a Third Party Validation (TPV) to ensure the reliability and accuracy of the enrollment data, academic members for PDO3 and ICT technicians.

During the month of March 2020, the program completed OBE-SCL trainings in 21 universities and more than 500 additional academic members received the OBE-SCL trainings. This brings the total number to over 2,200 trained academic members in OBE-SCL. The program is intensifying the monitoring activities to ensure practices of OBE-SCL approaches.

The ICT related activities are progressing well. KPU's ICT center and five IT equipment projects are almost completed. Time extension will be considered for the contractors due to the lockdown situation. 2020 target for this activity is already achieved. The program has planned to conduct ICT's infrastructure assessment of 18 public universities. Based on the findings of the assessment, the universities will be provided with further needed ICT facilities thorough the unallocated budget of HEDP to support the proposed E-Learning system.

The COVID-19 disrupted the scholarships component of the program. We expected a large number of scholars to complete their master programs and return to their universities by May 2020, but the pandemic affected this plan and the graduation has been delayed. The disruption affected all active 239 master and 38 PhD students, including the placement process of additional 16 Master and 14 PhD scholars. This will lead to the extension of study programs of some scholars for a period of 3-5 months. Having said this, the achievement of 2021 DLI target will be challenged and additional resources will be incurred. During the reporting period, 12 master scholars completed their program which brings the total number of completed scholarships to 151.

With respect to the Strategic Institutional Development Plans (SIDP's), a big number of universities (42) have developed their SIDPs, while the MoHE has trouble in receiving the APRs. 10 universities who were expected to submit their APRs, haven't submitted yet. As the universities are gradually resuming their operations, HEDP will work with the relevant departments to ensure completion and receiving of APRs on timely basis. This will allow the MoHE to measure the progress against the SIDPs and identify the challenges and problems.

The internal quality assurance activities are normally progressing. 18 IQAUs have been established and establishment of four more are in progress. During the period under review, the program only externally reviewed three universities; however, it was planned to review 15. The 2020 target for both internal and external quality assurance is expected to be achieved by the end of this year.

"The short-term leadership trainings" is another project activity severely affected by the pandemic. The program had planned to conduct leadership trainings during the first quarter of 2020. All the in-person

classrooms are closed down until early September. The program is lagging behind the plan for this component and is ready to conduct these trainings as soon as the situation improves.

The research component of the program is progressing well. Cumulatively, 31 group research Projects and 54 individual research projects have been completed. Most of the ongoing research projects are normally going ahead and the COVID-19 hasn't significantly affected this component. The program is confident that 2020 targets for this area will be achieved by the end of 2020 (65 individual and 30 group research projects).

The environmental and social safeguard activities are normally carried out. The monthly monitoring report of the construction projects are regularly and timely furnished. The last report ensures that the site specific ESMPs are implemented properly in order to manage and mitigate the negative environmental and social impacts associated with the projects. No specific social and environmental issue is detected on the ongoing projects' implementation. The total number of construction projects funded under HEDP since 2016 is 15. Out of these fifteen projects, seven are completed, 3 projects have contract related problems with MoHE, 3 other projects have stopped due to the contractors' financial issues, and 2 projects are normally ongoing.

Despite having good progress, the program also faces some drawbacks and challenges. The major challenge has been the social safeguard issue which has been pending for almost two years. The COVID-19 also affected the follow-up process with the line ministries and entities for resolving the issues. The MoHE and HEDP have to make a task team to follow up and accelerate the efforts. High level intervention is needed to resolve the issue. The program is also challenged by the delays happened in the infrastructure projects. The table #2 in the report indicates that some projects need contract amendments, while some will be terminated. The MoHE and HEDP should strictly follow up with the contractors from the beginning and ensure timely payment to enable them to complete the projects as per the agreed timeline.

COVID -19 affected the trainings' delivery as planned during the first and second quarters of 2020. The leadership training, IT technicians training, and the external peer review process have all been delayed until the in-person classrooms are resumed at universities. The program has also progressed in achieving the agreed actions of the recent mission. The agreed actions tracker is attached to the report.

During the reporting period, a master's program scholar in Malaysia had a traffic accident and passed away. Despite the travel restrictions, the project assisted the family of the deceased in transporting of his corpse. In addition, during the reporting period, two more master's degree scholars returned to the country without completing their scholarships due to having sever diseases. It's yet to be cleared, if they can return to their studies and continue their scholarship programs.

B) Component One Activities:

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

The 2019 enrollment data has been cross checked with the MoHE's updated data as of February 2020. The data looks to be the same with very minor changes. Based on the original priority list, the total number of students in priority disciplines (PDs) has been 86,215 in 2019, which exceeds the annual target of 2019 (80,500). In respect to the intermediate outcome level target, the number of female students enrolled at first year priority degree programs stands at 5,558. The program intends to verify the 2019 enrollment data through an independent third party firm. The recruitment of TPV firm is in process.

Table 1: Students Enrollment in PDs at Public Universities from 2016-2019

S/No	Year	First Year Enrollment (Original PD)		Total Enrollment (Original PD)		Indicators target values		
		Female	Male	Female	Male	DLI	PDO	Intermediate Outcome
1	2016	3,538	16,500	12,245	60,076		Total: 65,500 (Males: 53,500/Females: 12,000)	3,600
2	2017	5,229	19,803	14,482	63,763	4,500	Total: 68,000 (Males 55,000/Females 13,000)	4,000
3	2018	5,348	18,861	16,935	65,049	5,000	Total: 78500 (Males 64,000/Females 14,500)	4,500
4	2019	5,558	19,061	18,842	67,373		Total: 80,500 (Males 65,000; Females:15,500)	5000

Note: The data presented at this table is based on original priority disciplines (PD). The number in bold are DLI values.

Measures to Promote Female Enrolment in Public Universities.

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

Child Care Centers:

Cumulatively, the program has established three child care centers (Takhar, Bamyan, and Kabul medical universities), while renovation of child care centers in Albironi and Parwan Universities have been in progress. MoHE has approved the renovation of Child care centers in Herat and Kandahar Universities from their own budget. It's expected to be renovated in 2020.

Completed and Ongoing Activities During the Reporting Period:

- Renovation of child care centers of Kunduz, Herat and Badakhshan universities was planned for the year 2020. The Design process has been completed and the procumbent started.

Counselling Centers: Cumulatively, the program has established five counseling centers at KEU, Balkh, KU, Jozjan and Bamyan universities. The physical work of renovation of counselling center at Herat University is 90% completed.

Completed and Ongoing Activities During the Reporting Period:

- No specific progress except the physical progress of Herat universities' counseling center.

Water and Lavatories Projects: Cumulatively, the program has provided water and lavatories facilities at 13 universities so far. In addition, the physical work of water and lavatories in three more universities (KU, KMU, and Samangan) are in progress.

Completed and Ongoing Activities During the Reporting Period:

- The documents and designs for Water & Lavatories in Samangan and Baghlan Universities have been completed by engineering team and sent to procurement.

The Disadvantaged Scholarships: During the year 2019, disadvantaged female scholarships were awarded at 6 universities (KU, KEU, Herat and Balkh, KMU and KPU). 50 students were picked from each universities and they received the stipend since the beginning of the semester (September 2019). Through this initiative, MoHE would like to promote female retentions from disadvantaged background. In the year 2020, MoHE has planned 8 universities to award disadvantaged scholarships for female students.

Completed and Ongoing Activities During the Reporting Period: No Progress in this reporting period

Theme1.2: Modernizing and Enhancing the Quality of Teaching and Learning

Theme 1.2.1: Outcome Based Education and Student-Centered Learning

The program has had a steady progress in OBE-SCL. Despite exceeding 2020 target for this thematic area, the program expands the target groups, and is focusing on the implementation and practices aspect of OBE-SCL by faculties to ensure teaching and learning has improved. Cumulatively, the program trained more than 2,300 academic members and almost 96% of the trained academic members practices both OBE-SCL. Having said this, the 2020 target is exceeded. The TPV report also confirmed the exceed of the target.

During month of March, 2020 a number of 21 universities completed their OBE-SCL trainings. More than 500 fresh academic members received the OBE-SCL trainings. However, we were able to conduct the planned training in cold-season universities, the pandemic disrupted the trainings planned in warm-season universities. According to our annual work plan, we had planned to organize and conduct local OBE-SCL workshop to cover more public and private universities and higher education institutes. Likewise, OMST planned to organize an in-country advanced training to expand the pool of Champions which is unlikely to happen at this time due to the pandemic. We expect that in-person classrooms resume and the planned trainings will then be conducted. Hopefully, the last quarter of 2020 will be an optimistic time.

Completed and Ongoing Activities During the Reporting Period

- OBE-SCL trainings conducted in 21 universities and more than 500 fresh academic members received the trainings;
- OMST is filtering the list of trained academic staff in OBE-SCL during 2020 to prepare the Certificate of Participation;
- The program is intensifying the monitoring activities to ensure practices of OBE-SCL approaches. This will enhance the quality of teaching and learning. For this purpose, we have planned an impact survey to assess the current status quo and identify the challenges of implementing OBE-SCL. The assessment will also discover some evidences based recommendations for MoHE to take appropriate actions to further enhance the quality of teaching and learning during the pandemic and afterwards;
- OMST completed the translation of all the OBE-SCL PowerPoint slides and handouts from English to Dari and Pashto
- OMST developed an Action Plan for the local short-term leadership training programs during 2020;

Theme 1.2.2: Information and Communications Technology Enhanced Teaching and Learning

As of now, cumulatively 11 ICT centers are established at public universities which out of them eight have been reported as functional by the TPV firm, exceeding the 2020 DLI target. The physical work of KPU's ICT center is in progress and is nearly to be completed. With respect to the ICT equipment projects, 5 projects have been completed and handed over to the universities.

Completed and Ongoing Activities During the Reporting Period:

- KPU's ICT project is in progress with almost 80% completion rate. The COVID-19 disrupted its implementation, as it was planned to be completed within this reporting period.
- 5 more ICT equipment projects and one Solar project are in the implementation process. The implementation is 90% completed. The contractor has procured all the equipment, while the installation and configuration is yet to take place.
- The AfgREN-NOC project is 80% completed. This project was expected to be completed this reporting period, but due to the lockdown, this project also disrupted. The contractor has resumed activities. The MoHE will consider time extension, where applicable.
- As we had reported in our previous reports that the ICTs were staffed with temporary contract-based employees, the contracts are going to expire by June 2020. The MoHE is to extend the contracts, and at the same time we are following with the relevant line entities to receive the approved tashkeel and hire the civil servants for these universities. The MoHE has already requested tashkeel for Bamyan, Kuner, Faryab and Kapisa universities.
- The program had planned ICT Administration Workshop for 21 ICT technicians to be conducted in this reporting period. The NoL was received but COVID-19 delayed it. The program is yet to further delay until the in-person classroom studies resume.
- The program with coordination of IT directorate of MoHE has planned ICT infrastructure assessment of 18 public universities. Based on the findings of the assessment, the universities will be provided with further needed ICT facilities through the unallocated budget of HEDP.

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

Theme 1.3.1: Scholarships for Masters Degrees in Priority Disciplines

The objective of this theme is to improve the academic and human resources available in the higher education sector. For this purpose, the program has awarded 488 scholarships (435 master and 53 PhD) since 2016, of which 33% are awarded to female academic members. As of now 393 master scholars (263 males and 130 females) have been placed at universities, of which 151 are completed and returned to their universities for their jobs. In addition, 38 PhD scholars have been placed (29 Males and 9 Female). Currently, 239 master and 38 PhD scholars are studying at their respective universities. All master students are expected to graduate by 2022.

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted this thematic component of the program more than any other ones. During the last three months, we have only placed two PhD scholars. The lockdown affected our plan and many expected scholars remained unplaced due to lack of availability of flight tickets. The program is still required to place 16 master and 14 PhD scholars. With respect to the graduated scholars, the pandemic disrupted our plan. According to our plan, a big number of scholars were expected to complete their master program and return to their universities by May, 2020, but their graduation has been delayed due to Covid19. The disruption will lead to the extension of study programs for 3-5 months. Having said this, the program will be challenged by not achieving 2021 DLI target. During this reporting period, the program experienced another fatality of the scholarship program. A student of master program in Malaysia had a car accident and passed away. In addition, during the reporting period, two more master degree students returned to the country without completing their scholarships due to having severe diseases. It's yet to be cleared, if they can go back and continue their studies.

Completed and Ongoing Activities in this reporting period:

- The program continued with placing the remaining Master and PhD scholarships. 2 PhD scholars placed at priority degree program;

- 12 master scholars completed their scholarships and returned to their universities during this reporting period. This brings the total number of completed master scholarships to 151 as of May 2020.
- Follow up made with respect to the placement of 30 additional scholarships (16 master and 14 PhD). Their offer letters, visa and other paper work activities completed for 7 master and 7 PhD scholars, while the paper work of 9 master and 7 PhD scholars is in progress.
- Graduation Data: The pandemic disrupted all ongoing 239 master and 38 PhD students. Their expected completion period is anticipated to be elongated by 3-5 months. The program team is checking with each individual scholar on this. The data will be shared in the next report.

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

The objective of the short-term technical and maintenance training courses for the non-academic staff of the public universities is to facilitate the modernization of learning and teaching in the higher education system. The program has cumulatively trained more than 500 technicians since 2016, exceeding the 2020 intermediate outcome target value.

Completed and Ongoing Activities in this reporting period:

- The impact assessment report was shared with MoHE's leadership. Their feedback was received and H.E the Minister requested to share the report with all universities and involve PDCs for the systematic capacity building interventions at any required areas. The Minister has also stated that the challenges identified in the assessment report will be in priorities to respond in the future.

Theme 1.4: Strengthening Governance, Quality Assurance and Accreditation

Theme 1.4.1: Strategic Institutional Development Plans (SIDPs)

The objective of this theme is to strengthen the capacity of universities for systematic institutional planning, implementation and monitoring. 42 universities have completed their strategic institutional development plans (SIDPs), and endorsed by the MoHE. All remaining public universities are expected to develop their SIDPS by the end of 2020. Additionally, it is noteworthy that the MoHE has delegated the approval of SIDP's to the universities' academic council. This said, the MoHE won't approve off universities' strategic plans anymore as it did in the past. All universities have to prepare their own strategic institutional development plans and get it approved by the university's academic council. However, the MoHE might provide technical support to universities in developing their SIDP's.

Although MoHE was looking forward to receiving the completed SIDPs of all remaining universities by the end of 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic it seems that MoHE will not succeed in this regard. Universities might be closed-down for another three months. Therefore, it seems that universities will not be able to submit their SIDPs during this year.

Completed and Ongoing Activities in this reporting period:

- During the reporting period, three more SIDPs reviewed and approved by SPIC.
- Follow up with rest of universities who are expected to develop their SIDPs by the end of 2020. They are provided with timely guidance and support in this regards. 15 public universities are working on their SIDPs during 2020.

Annual Progress Reports (APR's)

MoHE expected 10 universities to submit their Annual Progress Reports (APRs) by the first quarter of 2020. The APRs are not shared yet. However, a big number of universities have developed their SIDPs, while the MoHE has trouble in receiving the APRs. This brings the SIDPs implementation under question. The SIDP's main intention is to be implemented, and reported on the progress. During the (2018), 6 universities issued their annual progress reports on their SIDPs.

The MoHE should focus on the importance of receiving APRs and stress on all targeted universities to submit their APRs on timely basis. This will allow the MoHE to measure the progress against the SIDPs and identify the challenges and problems.

Completed and Ongoing Activities in this reporting period:

NO progress yet. 10 public universities are expected to submit their APRs.

Theme 1.4.2: Internal Quality Assurance

Cumulatively, the program has established 18 IQAUs, while 4 more are in progress. The IQAU of KPU is in implementation and the IQAUs of ANASTU, Helmand and Wardak HEI are in the procurement process at NPA. The program has achieved and exceeded the 2020 DLI target. The TPV firm assessed 12 IQAUs, which all 12 have been reported as functional.

According to the OMST self-assessment and TPV reports, the weaknesses of universities in implement the IQAUs functionality scorecard are highlighted. The program works with universities to improve the highlighted areas and ensure the scorecard criteria are 100% achieved and implemented over the time.

Completed and Ongoing Activities in this reporting period:

- The establishment of 4 additional IQAUs are in progress. It's expected that COVID-19 pandemic will not disrupt the physical activities of the IQAUs' establishment while the procurement process is going to be affected as it will make the process lengthy and time consuming.
- To ensure full functionality of IQAUs over time, the program is closely working with universities to improve their weakness points as indicated in the OMST self-assessment and TPV reports.

Theme 1.4.3: External Quality Assurance

The program is progressing well with respect to the external quality assurance and accreditation. A steady progress has been made. Cumulatively, 44 universities including 16 publics are externally peer reviewed. Out of 12 universities planned to be externally peer reviewed this year, only 3 universities (Kunar, Khurasan and Rokhan) were externally peer reviewed in March, 2020. The capacity assessment of the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Directorate was completed by UNESCO. The report was shared with MoHE and stakeholders. UNESCO had also planned to conduct a consultation meeting with the international stakeholders at Bangkok, but the in person consultation delayed due to COVID-19. UNESCO is working on an alternative plan to continue with the QAAD assessment. The expected QAAD institutional improvement plan will be finalized in an extended timeline.

Completed and ongoing Activities in this reporting period:

- External Peer Review: During the period under review, the program only externally reviewed 3 universities. However, it was planned to review 15 universities. The COVID-19 disrupted the planned activities. The program may not be able to proceed with the external peer review process. This activity requires broad interaction with academic members, support staff and the students. every single document has to be checked and verified. The program will halt this process until the situation get better. It's to mention that 2020 target is already achieved.
- Training of additional external peer reviewers (EPRs): The CVs of new batch external peer reviewers are in the review process. The interviews will take place soon. However, the training and internship may not be organized until the external peer review process resumes. Because, after the training, the peer reviewers should go through internship (take part as observer during external peer review of universities) to practically understand how to conduct assessment and write report. The

peer reviewers will be hired in the next reporting period and the training timeline is yet to be decided considering the COVID-19 situation.

- QAAD capacity assessment: QAAD capacity assessment was conducted by UNESCO and the report was shared with MoHE for feedback. In order to develop the improvement plan, UNESCO planned stakeholders in person consultation meeting in March which postponed due to COVID-19. The program is in contact with UNESCO to reschedule virtual and in person meetings among the stakeholders for developing the improvement plan.

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

Cumulatively, the program has trained 271 senior academic staff under this thematic area, while the target to train has been 350 senior academic staff by end of 2020. The program plans to achieve the 2020 target when the universities fully resume their operations and the lockdown situation improves. According to our plan, the local short-term leadership training was expected to take place and train around 150 senior leadership staff during the first quarter of 2020. However, due to the pandemic the planned activities for this thematic area was hardly affected. All the in-person classrooms are closed down (until early September). For the time being, there are no other alternatives to support these training programs and we might need to wait until universities re-open.

Completed and ongoing Activities in this reporting period:

- The short-term leadership training package was developed. The package includes curriculum, set of training materials, and the roadmap;
- An Action Plan for the local short-term leadership training program was developed. This plan covers the activities in post-covid-19 period.

Theme 1.5: Stimulating Development Oriented Research (DLI)

The research component of the program is progressing well. Cumulatively, the program has awarded 152 research projects (47 group and 105 individual) to different public and private university's professors since 2016, which exceeds the actual target set in the PIM, which is 140. From the total number of research projects awarded, 31 group research Projects and 54 individual research Projects completed while the 2020 target is to complete at least 65 individual and 30 group research projects. The program is on track to achieve the 2020 target.

The 55 research projects, which were awarded on December 24, 2019, are being implemented and HEDP is tracking their progress on a bi-monthly basis. Meanwhile, the research component lead is also following up on the research projects' which were completed during 2017 and 2018 to make sure that they are published in international journals. The COVID-19 pandemic has not affected our research projects widely, only some of our research projects where the researchers needed to collect data from schools and universities have been disrupted. They are working on the literature review at this stage. Once the schools and universities are opened as normal, they will collect their data.

Completed and ongoing Activities in this reporting period:

- During the period under review, 10 individual research projects and 5 group research projects have been completed. Follow up made with the research project holders to ensure on time completion of their projects.
- During this time, the Technical Research Committee meetings have not been conducted since the widespread of the Coronavirus. Virtual meetings are planned to be conducted upon the request and need.

C) Component Two: Program Operations and Technical Support

Social and Environmental Safeguard

The environmental and social safeguard activities are normally carried out. The monthly monitoring report of the construction projects are regularly and on timely bases furnished. The last report ensures that the site specific ESMPs are implemented properly in order to manage and mitigate the negative environmental and social impacts associated with the project. No social and environmental issues are detected on the ongoing projects implementation. The total number of construction projects funded under HEDP since 2016 is 15. Of these fifteen projects, seven are completed, 3 projects have contract related problems with MoHE, 3 other projects have stopped due to the contractors' financial issues, and 2 projects are normally ongoing (Badghis girl's dormitory and Herat Lecture block).

During the period under review, the program has had the following with respect to the social and environmental safeguard:

- Safeguards Screening Report has been developed for all infrastructure projects (construction and renovation) funded under HEDP.
- An Environment and Social Management Plan (ESMP) has been prepared for the construction of emergency stairs project in Takhar University. This will mitigate the expected negative impacts associated with this project.
- Safeguard training plan (2020) and training materials on GRM and Social Safeguards developed and shared with the World Bank. The proposed timeline for delivery of these trainings will be third quarter of 2020. Based on the mentioned Plan we will conduct:
 - Construction-phase training for Badghis and Herat projects
 - Pre-construction training for Bamyan Slope Stabilization project
 - GRM awareness and capacity building training for coordinators
- Monthly monitoring reports of the ongoing (Herat and Badghis) projects are furnished. The report ensures that the site specific ESMPs are implemented properly in order to manage and mitigate the negative environmental and social impacts associated with the project. No social and environmental related issue is detected and reported.
- Report of a fatal incident occurred to one of the HEDP scholars Mr. Haidari at UPM University of Malaysia on 28th May shared with the Bank. Based on the police initial findings, he has died after his motorbike crash with a portorage car on the public highway. According to foreign affairs department of MoHE, he is entitled to receive financial aid called (Ikramia) based on Afghan Civil Servants Law. We have contacted his family to officially begin the process.
- GRM report developed and shared with the Bank. HEDP has received 11 complaints since October 2019. To date, 34 grievances have been received through GRM. Of these 34 complaints, 31 have been resolved, while three cases are still open.
- Follow up made on the deeds preparation for the 12 PAPs of the Bamyan female hostel project. All the official letters we received relevant to the PAFs case have been shared with Ministry's leadership for their support. The Ministry has assured us to follow up this issue with relevant authorities and the Administrative Office of the President, if needed. In addition, meetings conducted with the land distribution Directorate of MUDL in order to receive an official confirmation on Gunbadak city land documents.

Table 2: the physical progress of infrastructure projects, updated by May 2020

S/ N	Project Name	Start Date	Amended End Date	Vendor Name	Contract Amount	Paid Amount	Financial Progress (%)	Physical Progress (%)	Remaining Amount	Remarks
1	Lecture Blocks with Large class rooms and small class rooms (Ghazni Province)	26-Sep-16	26-Sep-18	Faizi Mujadidi CC	AFA 74,587,561	AFA 69,823,738	93.6%	94%	AFA 4,763,823	The contract is terminated by MoHE, while the last decision to be taken by NPA.
2	Lecture Blocks with Large class rooms and small class rooms (Sare-pul Province)	17-Dec-16	6-Aug-19	Faizi Mujadidi CC	AFA 61,406,134	AFA 57,033,224	92.8%	95%	AFA 4,372,910	Due to the financial issues, the physical work is stopped.
3	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 56,948,349	89.87%	95%	AFA 6,415,871	Due to the financial issues, the physical work is stopped.
4	Establishment of Research Center (Kabul University)	18-Dec-16	17-Sep-17	Knowledge CC	AFA 23,645,899	AFA 14,176,236	60.0%	90%	AFA 9,469,663	The contract is terminated by MoHE, while the last decision to be taken by NPA.
5	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%	96%	AFA 2,078,398	Due to the financial issues, the physical work is stopped.
6	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 contract is terminated by MoHE, while the last decision is to be taken by NPA.
7	Dormitories for female Students (Badghis Province)	31-Aug-16	22-09-18	Upgrade	AFA 87,490,564	11,634,460	13.29%	18%	AFA 75,856,000	Ongoing
8	Lecture Block for Computer Sciences Faculty (Herat Province)	25-Jul-19	25-Dec-21	Refah Saadat and Khalid Bashir CC	AFA 62,022,823.55	-	-	8%		Ongoing

Procurement

Activities this reporting period:

The procurement team of the project followed with relevant stakeholders on facilitation process of warding various HEDP supported projects. Following projects are at different stages of procurement.

- Internal Quality Assurance Units (IQAU) Wardak HEI => Re-announcement
- Laboratory Equipment's (Helmand HEI) => Re-announcement
- Equipment's for Counselling Center (Kabul) University => Ready for announcement
- Water & Lavatories for Girls (Baghlan University) => Design Stage
- Water & Lavatories for Girls (Samangan University) => Procurement Process (Budget Commitment)
- Child Care Centers (Kundoz, Herat, Badakhshan and Faryab Universities) => Announcement
- Establishment of Counselling Center (Herat University) => Design Stage
- Emergency Exit and Stairs for Takhar University (Girls Dormitory) => Procurement Process
- The Excavation work for Bamyan University (Girls Dormitory) => Design Stage
- Procurement of 10 Laptops for MoHE Directors => Announcement

D) Challenges and Recommendations

- The Physical infrastructure projects are not implemented according to the agreed timeline. However, contracts extensions were considered for some projects, they still couldn't manage to complete their projects on time. For now, only two projects have carried out their activities, while the rest are all stopped due to their contract related and financial issues. MoHE has terminated the contracts of three contractors, while the last decision is still with NPA. It's yet to be decided. MOHE and HEDP to follow up with NPA and get this issue resolved soon.
- The table #2 indicates that three contractors have financial issues and have stopped their physical work. The MoHE to conduct a meeting with them and ensure that the physical work resumes soon. In future, the financial capacity of the contractors should be evaluated properly to avoid such issues.
- The program is challenged by social safeguard issue. The land transfer for 11 PAFs took unexpectedly too much time. This case has been open for the last two years. The additional financing and future scope of the project can be negatively affected if this issue is not resolved. A committee should be established by MoHE's leadership to follow up with the relevant stakeholders and get this issue resolved as soon as possible.
- COVID-19 affected some scope of work of the project. All planned trainings have been suspended. The scholarships have also hardly been disrupted. According to the preliminary data received from the Master and PhD scholars, the duration of their scholarships will be elongated by 3-5 months which will incur additional resources and challenge the achievement of the program target. The MoHE and HEDP should collect official reports from the targeted universities and stress on them for timely completion of the scholarships.
- HEDP has passed its peak of activities implementation, within two months, there is no remarkable progress. The reporting period to be shifted from bi-monthly to quarterly in order to have more attractive progress reports.

Annex A: Intermediate Outcome Indicators Status updated for 2020

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>2020 Targets</i>	<i>Current Status as May 2020</i>
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A. PDO Level Indicators		
1. Student enrollment in universities in priority degree programs for economic development	Total: 82,500 Males: 66,000 Females: 16,500	Total: 86,215 Males: 67,373 Females: 18,842
2. Number of universities developing, implementing and monitoring strategic five year rolling institutional development plans consistent with the National Higher Education Strategic Plan.	18 universities issue Strategic Institutional Development Plans according to the template	42 universities issued Strategic Institutional Development Plans.
3. Increased numbers of full time academic staff with at least a Master's degree in priority degree programs	1,400.00	1584 with 167 females and 1417 males by March 2020
B. Intermediate Outcome Level Indicators		
Female enrollment in priority degree programs in the 1st year of public universities [DLI 1]	5,100	5,558 first year female students are enrolled.
Number of female students with access to adequate residential facilities for women on university campuses	4,750	5,664 by December 2019
Number of full time academic staff trained in, and practicing, outcome-based education and student centered learning [DLI 2]	1000 academic staff trained in and practicing outcome-based education and student centered learning	2,250 academic staff have been trained. According to the TPV report, more than 1000 academic members are trained and practice OBE-SCL;
Number of public universities with functional ICT centers for ICT based higher education [DLI 3]	7 universities with new and functional ICT centers	11 ICT centers established. Based on TPV report, 8 ICT are functional
Number of scholarships awarded to full time faculty staff for Masters Degrees in priority disciplines [DLI 4]	At least 200 Master's or above degrees completed	151 scholarships completed
Number of technical staff completing short-term technical and maintenance courses	300 staff trained	More than 500 technical staff trained
Number of universities with Internal Quality Assurance Units (IQAU) (b) functioning to international standards [DLI 5]	10 universities with IQAU functioning to international standards	18 IQAU established. Based on TPV report, 12 IQAU are functional
Number of public and private universities which complete a new regionally benchmarked quality assurance cycle	External institutional quality assurance reviews completed for 18 public and 18 private universities and reports disseminated by the MoHE	16 publics and 26 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	350 staff trained	271 Senior Academic Staff trained.
Development oriented research Projects, mainly in the priority disciplines [DLI # 6]	At least 30 group research Projects completed At least 65 individual research Projects completed	31 Group research projects of 2017 completed 54 Individual research projects of 2017 completed