



The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE)
Higher Education Development Program (HEDP)



Promoting Female Enrollment in Public Universities of Afghanistan

Higher Education Development Program

Ministry of Higher Education

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

The objective of this theme is to expand enrollment in degree programs that are of direct relevance for future economic development. Special attention will be given to increase female enrollment in priority degree programs.

Highlighted achievements under this theme are as below,

Reserved Seats for Female in Priority Disciplines in Kankor

Annually a specific number of seats in priority disciplines are reserved in Kankor for female candidates to increase the number of female enrollment in public universities.

Reserved Seats for Female in Priority Disciplines (2016- 2020)				
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
5074	4670	4962	5576	

1. **Table 1: Priority Disciplines under HEDP**

Priority Discipline	Priority Sub-discipline
Public Administration	Public Administration, Public Policy
Economics	Economics
Engineering	Engineering, Electro mechanic, Construction, Mines and Environmental Engineering, Chemical Technology, Geometrics and Cadaster, and Water resources.
Natural Sciences	Science and Natural Sciences fields excluding Mathematics
Computer Science	Information Technology and Computer Science
Health	Medical Science, General Medicine, Public Health, Stomatology, Pharmacy, Nursing, and Complementary Health Sciences.
Environmental Science	Environmental Science
Agriculture	Agriculture and Animal Husbandry
Language and Literature	Only English Language and English Literature
Geoscience	Geoscience
Veterinary	Veterinary

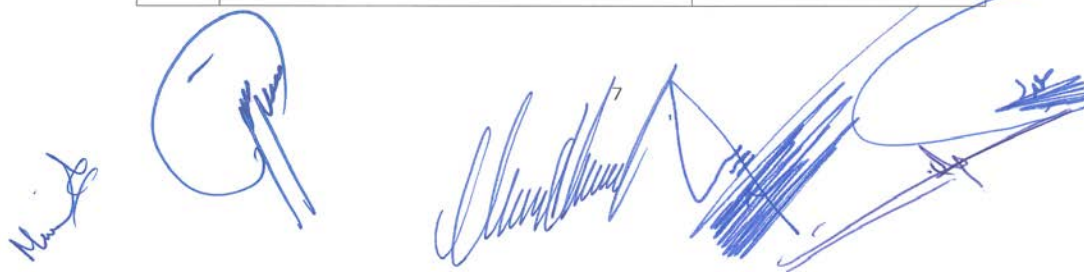
Providing Transportation for Female Students

One of the main issue of female students in public universities is lack of transportation especially in remote areas. To reduce the problem HEDP has provided 25 mini buses for female students in public universities in 2017. The Mini buses were distributed based on the ratio of female students in public universities and the route to university campus. Each bus has the capacity of 50 students at one time.

The list of 25 universities have received the mini buses.

female students

No	University Name	Number of Mini Buses
1	Faryab University	One Mini Bus
2	Herat University	One Mini Bus
3	Badakhshan University	One Mini Bus
4	Kandahar University	One Mini Bus
5	Balkh University	One Mini Bus
6	Ghor University	One Mini Bus
7	Ghazni University	One Mini Bus
8	Bamyan University	One Mini Bus
9	Baghlan University	One Mini Bus
10	Nangarhar University	One Mini Bus
11	Khost University	One Mini Bus
12	Daikundi University	One Mini Bus
13	Logar University	One Mini Bus
14	Sare Pul University	One Mini Bus
15	Laghman University	One Mini Bus
16	Helmand University	One Mini Bus
17	Jawzjan University	One Mini Bus
18	Kunar University	One Mini Bus
19	Paktiya University	One Mini Bus
20	Samangan University	One Mini Bus
21	Parwan University	One Mini Bus
22	Kabul Medical University	One Mini Bus
23	Kunduz University	One Mini Bus
24	Al-Bironi University	One Mini Bus
25	Takhar University	One Mini Bus



Day Care Services for Female Students and Academics in Public Universities

One of the main goals of MoHE and HEDP is to increase the number of female staff and female students in all higher education institutions and Universities in Afghanistan. To reach this many barriers are faced. As one of the barriers is not having an appropriate space where employed mothers can take care of their children during their working hours. Moreover, annually many female students and female faculty members leave university due to the lack of appropriate daycare facility for their children. One of the ways that employed mothers can receive assistance from this unit is having an appropriate childcare center in their work-places. Furthermore, MoHE with the contribution of HEDP is establishing child care centers in public universities to meet the below outcomes.

- Help to Retain and Recruit more female Employees
- Create Good Morale for Faculty Members
- Increase the number of female students
- Create good learning environment for female students

1. Child Care Center in Kabul Medical University

Donor: World Bank-HEDP

Year of Establishment: 2017

The Child Care Center established under HEDP cooperation, consists of 7 room, (*2 rooms for kinder Garden 1, 1 class room, 1 dining room and one bedroom for kindergarten 2, one kitchen, Staff office, playground, bathrooms and a hall is also included*). The center was completed in 2017 and now it is utilized and around 25 children are enrolled.

2. Child Care Center in Takhar University

Donor: World Bank-HEDP

Year of Establishment: 2018

The Child Care Center established under HEDP cooperation, consists of 6 room, (*1 room for kinder Garden 1, 1 class room, 1 dining room and one bedroom for kindergarten 2, one kitchen, Staff office, playground, bathrooms and a hall is also included*). The center was completed in 2018 and now it is utilized and around 15 children are enrolled.

3. Child Care Center in Bamyan University

Donor: World Bank-HEDP

Year of Establishment: 2019

The Child Care Center established under HEDP cooperation, consists of 8 room, (*1 room for kinder Garden 1, 1 class room, 1 dining room and one bedroom for kindergarten 2, one kitchen, Staff office, play room, store room, playground, bathrooms and a hall is also included*). The

center was completed in 2019 and now it is inaugurated. It was supposed to intake students for the current year, due to Covid-19 it is not utilized yet.

4. Child Care Center in Parwan University

Donor: World Bank-HEDP

Year of Establishment: 2020

The project is expected to be completed and utilized by end of 2020.

5. Child Care Center in Albironi University

Donor: World Bank-HEDP

Year of Establishment: 2020

The project is expected to be completed and utilized by end of 2020.

PS: 4 child care centers are planned to be completed by 2021 which are in Badakhshan, Faryab, Herat and Kunduz University.

Counselling Services for Students and Academics in Public Universities (Priority given to female)

The creation of a safe, confidential space to provide high-quality, gender-sensitive, culturally-relevant, and evidence-informed academic and psychosocial counselling will immediately extend the access to direct services to students and employees of Public Universities. This will enable students in need to come forward and seek help before they are forced to leave the university prior to graduation.

The presence of such a safe and confidential Model Counselling Center will enable women experiencing harassment, discrimination, or threats of any kind to come forward while knowing that they will be believed, treated with respect, and obtain the supports necessary to survivorship and resilience.

The Model Counselling Center will serve as a site for students in public universities' members to participate in high-quality supervised field practical required for graduates of Afghan counseling programs. It will also provide faculty and students with an opportunity to conduct research on effective, gender-sensitive, and culturally-relevant counseling.

Objectives of the Model Counseling Center

1. Improve retention and graduation of female students (as well as other marginalized and conflict-affected students) in higher education through the reduction of psychological and social stressors, known to interfere with academic performance;
2. Provide a safe, confidential space for female students (as well as other marginalized and conflict-affected groups) to obtain academic and psychosocial counselling, ancillary referrals, and group support activities;

3. Provide a safe, secure and confidential space for women who are experiencing harassment, discrimination or threats of any kind, knowing that they will be believed, treated with respect, and obtain the supports necessary for survivorship and resilience, in complete security and confidentiality;
4. Practice models of outcome-based (evidence-informed) counseling, validated as effective for Afghan women and to be replicated throughout the Afghan higher education system;
5. Train new generations of Counselling Psychologists to provide gender sensitive, culturally appropriate, and effective psychological and social counselling and support for Afghan women and other marginalized groups;
6. Advance Counselling Psychology as an important and practical career for Afghan women.

1. Counselling Center in Kabul University

Donor: World Bank-HEDP

Year of Establishment: 2019

The Counselling Center in Kabul University established under HEDP cooperation and technical support of Haunter Collage, USA, consists of 9 rooms, with standard design. The center was completed in 2019 and now it is utilized. The positions are filled and the services are for all the students, academics and staff of KU.

2. Counselling Center in Kabul Education University

Donor: World Bank-HEDP

Year of Establishment: 2018

The Counselling Center in Kabul University established under HEDP cooperation, consists of 7 rooms, with standard design. The center was completed in 2018 and now it is utilized. The positions are filled and the services are for all the students, academics and staff of KEU.

3. Counselling Center in Jawzjan University

Donor: World Bank-HEDP

Year of Establishment: 2019

The Counselling Center in Jawzjan University was established under HEDP cooperation. The center was completed in 2019 and now it is not utilized due to Covid-19; however, the counsellors are recently hired and would be utilized as soon as the universities are reopen.

4. Counselling Center in Bamyan University

Donor: World Bank-HEDP

Year of Establishment: 2019

The Counselling Center in Bamyan University was established under HEDP cooperation. The center was completed in 2019 and now it is not utilized due to Covid-19; however, the counsellors are recently hired and would be utilized as soon as the universities are reopen.

5. Counselling Center in Balkh University

Donor: World Bank-HEDP

Year of Establishment: 2019

The Counselling Center in Balkh University was established under HEDP cooperation. The center was completed in 2019 and now it is not utilized due to Covid-19; however, the counsellors are recently hired and would be utilized as soon as the universities are reopen.

6. Counselling Center in Herat University

Donor: World Bank-HEDP

Year of Establishment: 2020

The Counselling Center in Herat University is supported by HEDP. The center is expected to be completed by end of 2020.

Scholarship (Stipend) for Disadvantaged Female Students

One of the main goals of *National Higher Education Strategic Plan: 2015-2019* (NHESP II) is to increase and manage access, especially focusing on women students and people from conflict and underserved area. Besides, in *National Higher Education Strategic Plan: 2015-2019* (NHESP II) MoHE is committed to provide innovative high quality services that enable people with disabilities to lead meaningful and productive lives as vital members of their communities, workplaces, and in their families. Moreover, MoHE has an agreement with World Bank for providing scholarships for disadvantaged female as well. "Another barrier to female enrollment is the lack of financial resources available for their education. The MoHE and universities will provide financial assistance for female students from disadvantaged backgrounds."¹

The term Disadvantaged was defined by Bank team and was approved by the Ministry of Higher Education as below:

¹ PAD/ HEDP

- Individuals with special conditions or disability, such as including visual impairment, deafness, and any other physical disability by birth or inflicted by conflict.
- Socio-economic status of the students determined by low income and particularly low income female headed household. This is to be verified by pay stab of the household head.
- Hostel residence distance from university campus, which requires the students to take public transport to come to university
- Special conditions including pregnancy and security situation in the area.

The program started from 2018 and fully applied in 2019 for 300 students from 6 universities (Kabul University, Kabul Polytechnic University, Kabul Medical University, Kabul Education University, Balkh University and Herat University). It was planned to apply the program for the mentioned universities and 2 more, but due to Covid-19 the program is stopped.

Female Dorms

Ministry of Higher Education with support of HEDP established 5 standard female dorms in **5** provinces (Bamyan, Takhar, Kunar, Badghis and Helmand). Each Dorm has the capacity of 250 students at one time. The dorms are completed and would be utilized as the Covid-19 ends and the universities are reopen.