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NEWS RELEASE

**MEC Releases its 2<sup>nd</sup> follow up report on the implementation of recommendations in the MEC report  
'Vulnerability to Corruption in the Afghan Ministry of Public Health'**

**Kabul, Afghanistan, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017:** Today, MEC releases its second quarterly monitoring report on following up the implementation of recommendations of MEC's report 'Vulnerability to Corruption in the Afghan Ministry of Public Health'. MEC has been regularly monitoring the implementation of its recommendation to MOPH and publishes its monitoring report once every three months.

This quarter (October, November, and December) MOPH has adopted some measures to implement the recommendations, and has made some progress in several areas. National Health and Medical Product Regulatory Authority (NHMRA) has been established by the MOPH to monitor pharmaceutical markets, licensing the medical facilities and pharmacists, registering pharmaceuticals and medical products, and control quality and price of medicines in the markets. The NHMRA has dissolved 95 of the 467 registered production companies and started reregistration process of these companies. MOPH has established a Complaints Handling Office (CHO). Although newly established, the CHO has addressed 120 complaints to date. In this reporting period, MOPH has developed an Anti-corruption Strategy which encompasses all MEC's recommendations, MEC will report on the implementation progress of the AC Strategy in its next reporting period.

Overall, out of 115 recommendations issued by MEC, 14 recommendations have been fully implemented, 63 recommendations have been partially implemented and no actions have been taken regarding the remaining 40 recommendations by MOPH. In addition, there are some challenges in implementing the MEC's recommendations in MOPH. There is no proper coordination among some of MOPH's departments to implement MEC's recommendations, as in some cases contradictory information has been shared with MEC. Also some directorates resist implementing MEC's recommendations, which occasionally hinders MEC's evaluation and monitoring process.

Overall, over the past three months MOPH's actions have been positive yet the effects and results in health sector are impalpable. MEC considers the actions of MOPH as positive in the past three months and appreciates its efforts.

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