



**Independent Joint Anti-Corruption  
Monitoring & Evaluation Committee**

**NEWS RELEASE:**

**MEC Releases *TWO* Reports, and, MEC's Quarterly Press Conference**

Wednesday November 9<sup>th</sup>, 0930 am – Serena Hotel Kabul

1. First Quarterly Monitoring report on following up the implementation of recommendations in the MEC report 'Vulnerability to Corruption in the Afghan Ministry of Public Health' .
2. Pilot report on Senior Appointments in Badakhshan province. What proportion are based on competence? A new indicator gives the first quantitative estimate.

**Kabul, Afghanistan, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016** – Today, MEC has released its first quarterly Monitoring report on following up the implementation of recommendations in the MEC report 'Vulnerability to Corruption in the Afghan Ministry of Public Health'. MEC published its analysis of corruption vulnerabilities in the Ministry of Public Health on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The Minister, His Excellency Dr. Feroz, supported the analysis, and, in June, established a Working Group comprised of MOPH senior managers and external health sector stakeholders.

MEC has followed the progress of MOPH in following up this plan since June. MEC has attended meetings of the Working Group; has reviewed progress against each of the 115 recommendations; has also conducted twelve informal interviews to identify any notable or particularly outstanding aspects 'that may be changing at MOPH. '

Initially, it is noted that MOPH had been active in August and September in turning the MEC report into specific actions ("interventions") for MOPH officials. The evidence shows that this was a genuine early effort. However, the momentum has since slowed down. There remain serious challenges to a complete implementation plan for the MOPHSR recommendations, and a major confidence problem to overcome.

**Kabul, Afghanistan, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016** – Today, MEC released its pilot report on senior appointments in Badakhshan province. What proportion are based on competence? A new indicator gives the first quantitative estimate.

The Afghan government is required by law to appoint people to positions on the basis of competence and merit. However, this is widely not the case at present. MEC is examining the extent of this problem, and has commenced with examining the situation in a single province, Badakhshan.

MEC discussed the question of patronage with many people in Badakhshan during their visit in July 2016. The opinion of most people – from ordinary citizens to high officials – was that all, or almost all, of the senior government positions in the Province were filled on the basis of patronage.

MEC has developed a pilot indicator 'CorP' – the competence or patronage percentage – so that a numerical estimate of the extent of patronage can be monitored. For Badakhshan, the indicator was estimated for the top 100 positions in the Province. The result was that 31% were estimated to be based on competence and 69% based on patronage.

This result is not good and shows the need for intense effort to improve the quality of the recruitment and appointment process. But, there is also a message of hope in it, because the percentage is better than people were thinking. It shows that even in tough conditions like in Badakhshan, competent people are in place and the fight against corruption can yet succeed.

**REMINDER** Please join MEC's Press Conference on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 0930 am – at Serena Hotel Kabul, to get the details of each report and MEC's quarterly update.

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