



Press Release

Third Quarter Monitoring Report: Reform in The Ministry of Education is Started

Kabul, Afghanistan – March 12, 2019: During the third quarter of monitoring implementation of MEC recommendations in the “Ministry-wide Vulnerability to Corruption Assessment (MVCA) of the Ministry of Education”, published on October 26, 2017, no additional recommendations out of the total 113 were determined to be fully implemented by the Ministry of Education or any of the other relevant stakeholders.

The 16 recommendations that MEC has determines to be fully implemented since the release of its MoE MVCA are mainly related to the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC)’s recruitment of teaching positions, with a small number of recommendations directly related to MoE actions. Progress against the recommendations includes review and reducing the size of the Ministry, increased women participation, review and development of policies, ensured transparency in recruitment and digitalizing the recruitment process.

In this current quarter of monitoring, covering the period of August to November 2018, two further recommendations have been achieved up to 50%, making a total of 16 recommendations 50% achieved since the assessment was published. These recommendations include, involving local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in active monitoring and oversight of teacher recruitment through electronic means, reviews of the curriculum framework through engagement and consultations with key stakeholders, and the Independent Administrative Reform Civil Service Commission’s (IARCSC) digitization of the examination process for MoE recruitment, particularly for Grades 1 and 2.

Also, in the third quarter of monitoring, fifteen recommendations out of 113 have been achieved up to 25%, a notable increase from just seven recommendations at this level of implementation in the last monitoring period. These include the shift toward greater use of local materials in the construction of new schools; the expansion of the use of electronic payments for teachers’ salaries – now at a level of 62%; further progress in the digitization of 12th Grade Diplomas; and deployment of MoE staff to 33 Provinces for data collection and verification.

In this third quarter of monitoring, work and/or study has begun on 38 recommendations while no action has been taken on six out of 113 recommendations. In addition, 22 recommendations out of 113 are pending for future implementation.

Leadership and the Reform Agenda in the Education Sector

MEC has taken the approach of assigning a thematic focus to its quarterly follow-up monitoring periods. During the 3rd quarter, MEC’s thematic focus has been on reform in the education sector. The MEC MoE MVCA identified the essential role of leadership as a driver of reforms to confront the Ministry’s vulnerabilities to corruption. Following the change of the Ministerial leadership itself, there have been notable developments to embrace and support reforms of the sector, both at Headquarters and on a Provincial-level. These have included the adoption of the Ministry’s “Anti-Corruption Plan,” which is part of its larger “*Education Reform Plans: a Comprehensive Set of Policies, Processes and Functions Guidance*,” supporting the processes of reform and the crucial fight against corruption.



کمیته مستقل مشترک نظارت و ارزیابی مبارزه علیه فساد اداری
د اداری فساد پر وړاندې د مبارزې د څارنې او ارزونې خپلواکه گډه کمیته
Independent Joint Anti-corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee

Key elements of the Ministry's efforts are ensuring leadership on reform of the sector:

- Delegating the functions/responsibilities of school construction, procurement, recruitment and TVET to other organizations so the Ministry could focus on its core functions of providing education.
- Cooperating with the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Services Commission (IARCSC) and the World Bank in a functional review to study MoE personnel and leadership from the bottom up to determine where there is functional overlap, where organizational structure is aggregated, where organizational structure is lacking, and where/if there is a need to establish new units within MoE.
- In order to support decentralization, developing administrative competencies and capacity at the Provincial level.
- Establishment of a 'Human Resources Pay Roll Management Information System' (HRPRMIS) to be integrated with other systems, including the Payroll System, Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS), and Education Management Information System (EMIS).
- Increasing women's participation in the education sector, including: Specifying that nine Departments (out of roughly 50 in Kabul MoE) will be led by women; reserving 11 Directorships of Teacher Training Colleges (TTCs) for women; and allocating half of 8,000 newly created teaching positions for women.
- Publishing the ToRs, procedures, regulations and policies the Ministry is revising on its website for a period of two weeks to solicit comments from the public. This kind of transparency and openness for consultation is unprecedented for MoE – this is praiseworthy and should be further encouraged.

###