

Executive Summary

On 26th October 2017, MEC released the “Ministry-wide Vulnerability to Corruption Assessment of the Ministry of Education.” Based on findings from this assessment, MEC identified key areas of vulnerability to corruption and issued 66 recommendations for improving different aspects of education and bringing much needed reform to the sector and the Ministry of Education. These were subsequently refined into 113 more specific recommendations. The current follow up report is the first Quarterly Monitoring Report on the implementation of the recommendations.

MEC actively monitors the implementation of its recommendations, proposed reforms, and the anti-corruption efforts in the education sector, and uses this information to prepare a Monitoring Report on a Quarterly basis. In the first period of Quarterly monitoring, MEC has conducted Provincial visits to Nangarhar, Laghman, and Kabul. MEC seeks evidence including documentation, direct observations, and interviews in order to verify data and responses from designated focal points.

In the first Quarter, MEC faced challenges in getting timely responses from the Ministry of Education, including difficulties and pushback in accessing information from the Ministry. MEC did not receive any reports from focal points by the initial deadline. Ministry leadership also sent emails to specific focal points, requesting them to respond to MEC. Some of these focal points neither replied to MEC’s emails, nor to the MOE leadership’s messages. While MOE leadership had been highly cooperative in the monitoring process, this weakness of communication from focal points was disappointing and caused unnecessary delays in preparing the first Quarterly Monitoring Report.

Since release of the MVCA, recruitment of all civil service employees was shifted to the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC.) Following this change, MEC monitoring of recommendations related to teacher recruitment has also shifted from MOE to IARCSC. IARCSC leadership welcomed MEC’s recommendations, agreed on implementation, and has cooperated in MEC’s monitoring of these 17 specific recommendations that. Similarly, 14 of the original recommendations are associated with Development Partners (DPs), and the MEC monitoring team has actively engaged with their representatives for the follow-up process.

In first Quarter of monitoring 16 recommendations out 113 are considered to be fully implemented. These are related to IARCSC’s recruitment of teacher positions and a small number directly from actions in MOE. This progress includes transparency measures such as announcing all positions through their website, receiving online applications, digitalizing recruitment, and announcing the list of applicants and shortlisted candidates.

Another area of notable progress was regarding restructuring of MOE and reducing the overall size of the Ministry. MOE has developed and finalized a detailed Reform Plan and prepared Concept Notes for restructuring various elements of the Ministry. These changes include shifting responsibility for rural schools construction to the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Rural Development and urban schools to the Ministry of Urban Development. Additionally, a Presidential Decree dictated that the Technical, Vocational, and Educational Training program be removed from the MOE structure with formation of an Independent Technical & Vocational Education and Training Board.

Regarding guaranteed female participation within the education system, IARCSC developed its “Policy on Increasing Women Participation on Civil Service;” notably, this is not only focused on education. This policy aims to increase the recruitment of women by 2 percent in Afghanistan’s civil service

workforce during 2018. MOE has also taken positive actions regarding implementation of this recommendation, allocating half of 8,000 teacher positions to female candidates.

MEC recommended that MOE leadership issue a public statement which highlights sector-wide reform and the Ministry’s fight against corruption, which is now considered fully implemented. The leadership of the National Unity Government has also declared the two coming years, 1397 and 1398, as Education Support Years.

In this period, MOE has also made substantial progress with revision of policies, documents and regulations. For instance, a Code of Conduct for all MOE staff to ensure Equity, Integrity, Right to Education, Accountability, and Trust is in place now. Community Based Education Policy and the Data Collection Guideline have been revised and the Education Quality Committee is functioning now.

12 diverse recommendations out 113 are achieved up to 50 percent. Based on MEC recommendations, MOE has now revised the curriculum framework, including specification that the number of textbooks for each grade would be reduced, as follow:

Textbooks of grades 1-3 from 6 to 3.

Textbooks of grades 4-6 from 14 to 6.

Textbooks of grades 7-9 from 17 to 7

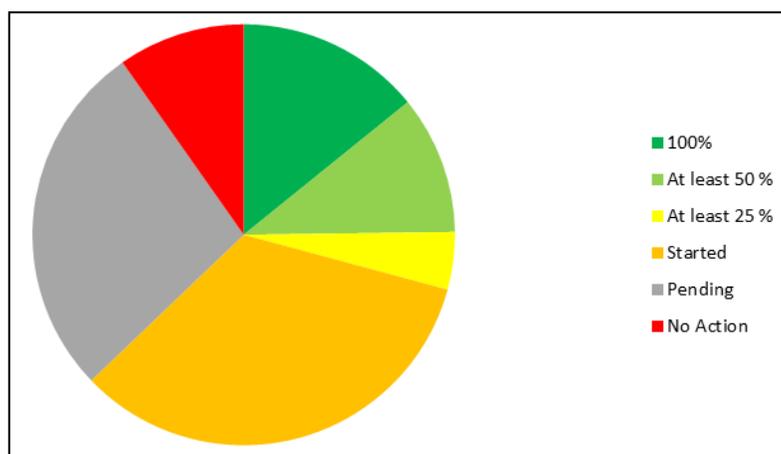
And textbooks of grades 10-12 from 15 to 12.

5 recommendations out 113 are achieved up to 25 percent. These include establishing a Complaints Handling System (by IARCSC,) conducting training to improve data quality in the Education Management Information System, and developing the MOE Anti-Corruption Plan.

In this Quarter, work and/or study has started on 38 of the MEC recommendations. A good example of this category is digitalizing the issuing of 12th grade Diplomas. Software for digitizing certificate data and issuing Diplomas has been developed and is now being piloted in Kabul City by the Kabul City Education Department.

On this monitoring quarter, 31 recommendations are considered pending, while no action was detected on 11 out of 113 recommendations. These recommendations also include a wide range of different topics. The status of recommendations summarized below:

Recommendation Status	Numbers
100%	16
At least 50 %	12
At least 25 %	5
Started	38
Pending	31
No Action	11
Total	113



Overall, MOE and the IARCSC made progress on their relevant recommendations. MEC expects MOE to accelerate the process of implementation of MEC recommendations in the coming Quarters, as

well as implementation of their comprehensive Reform Plan. MEC will provide its second Quarterly Monitoring Report on reform by August 2018.