



Press Release

Private Education in Afghanistan is vulnerable to Corruption

Kabul - Afghanistan, 6 November 2019: The Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) released its Fifth Quarterly Monitoring Report on the implementation of its anti-corruption recommendations for the Ministry of Education (MoE), issued in MEC's Ministry-wide Vulnerability to Corruption Assessment (MVCA) of the MoE. The original MVCA, released in October 2017, assesses the Ministry's corruption risks and proposes reforms.

Reporting from the Ministry and observations by MEC's Active Follow-Up Team showed improvements in the implementation of the recommendations, with 37 recommendations currently considered as fully implemented out of the total of 113 recommendations issued in the MVCA. During this reporting period, MoE and its partners have fully implemented 9 recommendations, including the following recommendations:

- Monitoring the IARCSC-led recruitment process by civil society organizations
- Publishing the Community-Based Education Assessment Report
- Establishing a mechanism to address complaints
- Establishing a High Audit Committee
- Developing and releasing comprehensive reform and anti-corruption plans
- Increasing public awareness on education
- Increasing the number of auditors in the Internal Audit Unit by 10 per cent
- The notation and documentation of active School Management Shuras

During the reporting period, 5 recommendations were added to the 28 considered as 50 per cent implemented. These include the revision of curriculum, the development of a Teacher Accreditation System, the review of the Terms of Reference of School Management Shuras, the expansion of practical teaching in TTCs, the expansion of literacy programs for women, the improved digitization of education certification, the establishment of a High Level Oversight Committee, the expansion of capacity-building programs for teachers and other MoE staff, and the MoE reporting on the implementation of their Anti-Corruption and Reform plan.

Further, 18 recommendations were regarded as 25 per cent implemented, such as the expansion of the use of electronic payments. At the time of the original MVCA, 53 per cent of salaries were paid through electronic payments. This figure has now increased to 67 per cent with the remaining 33 per cent receiving payments through Mpaisa or mobile bank teams. The work on these 18 recommendations has begun during this reporting period.



Eight recommendations are still pending implementation while there is no progress report on recommendations with a 'No Action' status.

MoE and Private Education in Afghanistan

There has been a notable increase in private schools during the last 15 years. According to the figures released by MoE's in 2019, there are currently 2,218 active private schools around the country. The Private Educational Institutions Department has been established to regulate private school affairs.

The Private Educational Institutions Regulation determines the legal frameworks for private schools in Afghanistan. The Regulation, and the conditions and standards it sets, are not being strictly applied, thereby increasing corruption risk. The findings of MEC's Active Follow-up Team indicate that the majority of private schools do not comply with the standards defined in the regulation.

Moreover, when the Regulation is too strict for the current Afghan context, the private schools remain in a vulnerable position when the Monitoring Delegation monitors their weak compliance, thereby increasing corruption risk. The granting of certificates by Private Educational Institutions Department is also vulnerable to corruption.

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