

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Office of Chief of Staff for the President Deputy of Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat

> First Semiannual Report of fiscal year 2018 on the Implementation of National Strategy for Combatting Corruption

This report is developed based on information, documents and evidence provided by the ministries/Administrations to the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat on the implementation of the National Strategy for Combating Corruption.

Abbreviations

ACCA	Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
ADP	Asian Development Bank
AEC	Atomic Energy Commission
AEITI	Afghanistan Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
AGO	Attorney General's Office
ANCOP	Afghan National Civil Order Police
AOP	Administrative Office of the President
APAO	Afghanistan Professional Accounting Office
ARCS	Afghan Red Crescent Society
САРА	Confederation of Asia Pacific Accountants
CEO	Chief Executive Office
DAB	Da Afghanistan Bank
ETTC	Electronic Toll Collection Procurement
FPIP	Fiscal Performance Improvement Plan
GDPES	General Directorate of Physical Education and Sport
HCJA	High Committee of Judicial Appointments
HCRLAC	High Council for Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption
НОВ	High Oversight Board
HOOAC	High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption
IARCSC	Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Services Commission
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance

IGDKA	Independent General Directorate of Kuchi (Nomad) Affairs
IJSC	Independent Judicial Services Commission
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force
IVA	Integrity Watch Afghanistan
JSSP	Justice Sector Support Program
LMIS	Labour Market Information System
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
MCIT	Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
MEC	Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee
MoD	Ministry of Defense
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoEW	Ministry of Energy and Water
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoHE	Ministry of Higher Education
MoIA	Ministry of Interior Affairs
MoIC	Ministry of Industry and Commerce
MoIC	Ministry of Information and Culture
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoLSAMD	Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled
MoMP	Ministry of Mines and Petroleum
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health

MoPW	Ministry of Public Works
МоТ	Ministry of Transport
MoWA	Ministry of Women Affairs
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
MSP	Government Mobile Salary Payments
NPA	National Procurement Authority
NSC	National Security Council
NDS	National Directorate of Security
OGP	Open Government Partnership
SACS	Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat
SAO	Supreme Audit Office
SC	Supreme Court
SOP	Standard Operational Procedure
WTO	World Trade Organization

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Preface

The Afghanistan National Strategy for Combatting Corruption has consolidated and significantly improved anti-corruption efforts in the country. This strategy was approved on September 28, 2017 and based on H.E presidential decree No. 2771, dated December 9, 2017, the strategy has been introduced to public institutions and they were asked to develop their action plans for implementation of the strategy. Consequently, the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat was established on January 6, 2018 under the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation, in order to monitor the implementation of the strategy.

Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat reports on the implementation of the strategy to the High Council for Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption on a quarterly basis. In addition, the secretariat publishes semi-annual reports on the implementation of the National Strategy for Combatting Corruption. The current report includes major achievements and improvements in the implementation of the National Strategy for Combatting Corruption over the past six months of the 1397 fiscal year - Starting from December 12, 2017 and ending on May 22, 2018.

Executive Summary

In order to create a strategic vision and an effective, organized and coordinated fight against corruption in Afghanistan, and in order to implement the obligations arising from the signing and accession of Afghanistan to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the Afghan Government committed to designing and implementing a National Strategy for Combatting Corruption. Subsequently, development of the National Strategy for Combatting Corruption began in early 2017 leading to its approval by the Cabinet in late 2017 and its subsequent implementation.

The greatest achievement in the implementation of the National Strategy for Combatting Corruption so far is the full implementation of its **25 benchmarks and 26 goals**. From among the completed benchmarks, the deadline for the implementation of 19 benchmarks was June 2018 and the deadline for implementation of two other benchmarks was set for December 2018. In addition, 7 other benchmarks are in advanced stages of implementation and 25 goals have had some progresses. From the remaining benchmarks and goals, 4 benchmarks have been partially implemented, 12 goals have limited progress, 2 benchmarks have been launched and only 4 goals have had no progresses.

The National Strategy for Combatting Corruption focuses on reforms in five pillars. In addition, the National Strategy identifies 9 institutions as the priority revenue generating and high spending institutions. This report summarizes the monitoring of the major progresses and achievements in the implementation of the benchmarks and the achievement of priorities and goals projected in the five pillars as well as the major achievements of priority revenue and expenditure ministries/institutions over the past six months.

Under the 1st Pillar, major achievements include asset registration of 9,153 government officials and employees, including senior officials under Article 154 of the Constitution; adoption of the Whistleblowers Protection Law by the Cabinet; revision of the Access to Information Law based on international standards and best practices; drafting of the Penal Code of which section four has been devoted to corruption offenses in line with the United Nations' Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC); creation of the Office of the Ombudsman at the Presidential Palace to deal with major corruption complaints; adoption of a Local Governance Roadmap; and enabling the exclusion of corruption offenders from holding public offices through the Penal Code and the revision of the Civil Service Law.

Under the 2nd Pillar, major achievements include the appointing and strengthening of a High Oversight Board for the appointment of the Senior Security Officials; expanding electronic payrolls to all accessible districts by the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Defense to eliminate the ghost soldiers and police; clarifying the mandates of defense and policing; transferring the Afghan National Civil Order Police (ANCOP) and the Border Guards from the Ministry of Interior to the Defense Ministry; defense planning, budgeting and strategy development, including publishing unconditional defense strategy and a detailed defense budget and developing and publishing anti-corruption action plans by security sector agencies; revision of the security sector related legislative documents; and expanding the mechanisms for security sector dialogue and cooperation with civil society especially by the Interior Ministry.

Under the 3rd Pillar, major progress in the implementation of the National Strategy include the reform of the recruitment process of the civil servants; public announcements and conducting of mass exams for the civil service positions using information technology (electronic recruitment) for ensuring transparency of the exams; creation of a single portal for advertising of government positions by all government institutions; creating civil society and media oversight mechanisms for major recruitment processes; revising and approving laws, regulations and guidelines required for institutionalizing a transparent civil service system; overseeing the implementation of laws and regulations in the recruitments and the affairs of the human resources departments of the public institutions; revitalizing the civil service training center - the Civil Service Institute - and curriculum and designing 50 rounds of anticorruption training programs for 4,000 newly recruited public servants; establishing a mechanism for citizens' comments and complaints through the weekly meetings of the leadership board of the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC); and introducing an awards program for civil servants' individual and team achievements in the fight against corruption.

Under the 4th pillar, key achievements include the creation of a Deputy Attorney General position dedicated to fighting corruption and the absorption of the former High Office of Oversight with the AGO; the amendment of the law on structure and authorities of the AGO; revision of the law on Processing, Publishing and Enactment of Legislative Documents through Open Government Partnership in order to ensure public participation, transparency and accountability in legislative processes; creation of the asset recovery directorate and international crimes directorate within the office of the Deputy Attorney General for Anti-Corruption; deploying of at least 52 prosecutors to secure districts; registration of assets of judges, advisers, prosecutors and officials of the judiciary and the AGO; and the creation of the High Appointment Board within the Supreme Court.

Under the 5th pillar, major achievements include the adoption of the accounting law defining the national standards for accounting; the establishment of an independent authority within the Treasury Department for licensing audit and accounting companies and regulating the sector; strengthening the Supreme Audit Office through the amendment of the law establishing it; simplification and automation of key revenue collection processes within Large and Medium Tax-Payers' Offices; drafting of the government property law; creation of government property database; strengthening contract management capacity of public institutions and establishing contract implementation monitoring system; improving Afghanistan's rank in the Open Budget

Index 2017; and the referral of two cases by FINTRACA totaling \$348 million of suspicious money laundering, falsification and tax evasion transactions.

Progress was also made on the development of ministerial anti-corruption action plans with the technical support of the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat. Fifty-four action plans of ministries and public institutions have been finalized and another 3 are in the process of being finalized soon. In addition, the Parliament has been encouraged to take part in this national endeavor and the Lower House has recently indicated that it would develop its own action plan.

Generally, progress in achieving the goals and benchmarks in the first, third and fourth pillars of the strategy has been significant. Progress in the second and fifth pillars of the strategy has not been as satisfactory and the relevant ministries and departments need to pay more attention to achieving the goals and benchmarks projected in those pillars in the forthcoming quarter.

The major parts of this report include the methodology and monitoring challenges, progress made in implementing the strategy based on the goals and objectives of the five pillars of the strategy, the reports of activities and the achievements of the revenue and expenditure ministries/departments on combating against corruption, the implementation of the special projects directed by the National High Council for Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption, major achievements of the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat of the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, Monitoring and Assessment of the Office of Chief of Staff over the past six months, and three appendices including progress reports based on benchmarks, the summary reports on the performance of the ministries and departments during the past six months (January 2018 to June 2018), and the annex table on the implementation of the eighth and ninth goals of the third pillar of the strategy.

Methodology

The current report is developed through the analyses of quarterly reports presented by government institutions from their activities, progresses and achievements over the past six months in the implementation of their anti-corruption action plans based on the National Strategy for Combatting Corruption.

The Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat has developed a specific format and guidelines for assisting ministries and other government institutions in preparing their quarterly reports. The format and guidelines were presented to the focal points or authorized representatives of the ministries and institutions through many workshops and follow up sessions. The purpose of developing a single format and guidelines, sharing them with government institutions as well as regular contacts, and the follow up sessions was to facilitate effective monitoring as well as reporting by ministries/institutions and to ensure coordination and good quality of the reports by each institution.

In addition, following the workshops the Special Secretariat has been regularly in touch with representatives of government institutions and has been working with them on how to prepare reports and how to report on their anti-corruption activities. Moreover, to ensure the effective implementation of the National Strategy and the verification of reported activities, the submission of evidence and supporting documents was considered an essential part of the reporting obligation by the government institutions. The evidence and supporting documents include the administrative documents that indicate the steps or process of a specific activity, documents and procedures for or in regard to an activity, and news reports indicating the accomplishment of the activity published on the websites of the ministries and institutions.

The methods of verification of activities reported by ministries and institutions have also been explained to the focal points. Accordingly, after the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat received the quarterly reports, the evidence and supporting documents were reviewed and compared with the submitted evidence and supporting documents of the activities. In addition to ensuring that activities were carried out in accordance with the strategy and ministries / institutions' anti-corruption action plans, it helped to better understand the activities conducted by the ministries and institutions. Similarly, qualitative review of reports and activities has also been part of the verification and validation process in order to ensure that activities are carried out in accordance and in line with the goals/objectives, priorities and benchmarks of the strategy.

In addition to analyzing the reports submitted by the ministries/institutions, the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat has visited the reports published on the activities of the ministries/institutions on their websites, and the relevant findings published by the national and international oversight bodies working on anti-corruption, rule of law, governance and transparency and has used them for strengthening the verification process and verifying the results and impact of the reported activities.

Monitoring Challenges and Constraints

Lack of submission of quarterly reports by 12 ministries/institutions in the first quarter and 6 ministries/institutions in the second quarter from the total number of 56 ministries/institutions, and delays in the submission of quarterly reports by a number of other ministries/institutions, provided major constraints for the provision of this report. Major challenges and problems for the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat, especially at the first quarter of the reporting period, included a lack of familiarity of ministries/institutions with effective reporting on anti-corruption activities; capacity constraints in a number of ministries/institutions; lack of sufficient co-ordination within ministries/institutions with their respective nominated representatives to report on the implementation of anti-corruption activities; frequent changes in the focal points of the ministries/institutions; delays in the preparation and implementation of action plans; and, in some cases, lack of prioritization and attention to the fight against corruption.

Moreover, major challenges for the secretariat in terms of both quality and timeliness in reporting were caused by issues including the low quality of some reports; lack of adequate analyses and explanations on activities; the general and vague expression of activities without providing descriptions of the process and the results and effects of the activities; and failure to provide reasons for the lack of progress in some priorities and activities.

Furthermore, failing to provide supporting documents by a number of ministries/institutions, the lack of provision of adequate supporting documents and, in some cases, non-relevance of the documents by some ministries/institutions have also been the main challenges for the secretariat's monitoring activities.

The status of progress based on the goals of the National Strategy for Combating Corruption

This section describes the progress made in meeting the goals of each pillar, which generally reflects the status of implementing the strategy during the first six months of the 1397 fiscal year.

Progress has been evaluated on the implementation of the goals of the five pillars in the strategy, based on the following implementation statuses:

Achieved: It indicates the status of goals, which the related ministries and other authorities reported on the full implementation of activities required for implementing the specific goals. The goals could be with or without benchmarks.

Partially Achieved: It indicates the status of goals, which the related ministries and authorities reported on completing part of the basic activities for the implementation of each goal. The undertaken activities show that the target was achieved in a certain way.

Limited progress: It indicates the statute of goals, which the primary and minor activities are being done for their implementation.

Not Achieved: It indicates the status of goals, which no activity has been done for their implementation or the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat did not receive any report of the undertaken activities to show progresses on goals.

Of the 66 (100%) goals set in the five pillars of the National Strategy for Combating Corruption, 26 (39.3%) goals are achieved, 25 (37.8%) goals are partially achieved, 11 (16.6%) goals had limited progress, and 4 (6%) were not achieved during the first six months of the 1397 fiscal year.



Figure 1: Progress based on the goals of the National Strategy for Combating Corruption

Pillar 1: Political Leadership and Empowering Reformers

Strengthening political leadership and supporting reformers' networks constitute the first pillar of the National Strategy for Combatting Corruption. This pillar focuses on three major priorities including ensuring fair elections, protecting reformers and providing exemplary leadership.

Over the past six months, progress on the goals set for the three priorities mentioned above include: a. review of the civil and criminal laws, in terms of their nature and shape, in order to improve the prosecution of corrupt individuals and seizure of illegally acquired assets; b. facilitating the exclusion of the individuals who committed corruption from government offices; c. convening annual meetings at the national level, and launching discussions on the National Strategy for Combatting Corruption which were led by the President and Chief Executive Officer; d. recording and publishing assets of Sr. officials; e. consolidation and strengthening of the National High Council for the Rule of Law; f. the creation of an Ombudsman Office; and, g. strengthening the independent board for the appointment of the high-ranking security officials.



Figure 2: Major achievements in pillar 1

This pillar consists 15 (100%) major goals that over the first six months of 1397 fiscal year, 7 (46.6%) goals have been fully achieved, 4 (26.6%) goals have been partially achieved, 3 (20%) goals have limited progress, and 1 (6.6%) goal has not been achieved yet.



Figure 3: Percentage of improvements in the pillar 1

The major achievements in implementing the main objectives of this pillar are as follows:

Goal #1: Conduct annual national outreach and feedback discussions on the anticorruption strategy led by the President and CEO

The President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has conducted Annual Advisory meetings with the governors, provincial directors of the Ulema Council and university presidents through a videoconference on 13/2/1397. At the conference, government leadership officials included the second Vice-President, the Attorney General, Head of Ulema Council, and Head of Independent Directorate of Local Governance, Minister of Higher Education; advisors to the president, Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat, and other officials were present. The conference focused on the current issues and challenges to fight corruption, and challenges and difficulties in the process of enrolling voters and ways to solve these problems. It is worth mentioning that before the annual conference was held, governors and university presidents shared their views in consultation with their provincial colleagues and two separate reports were presented to the President in a unified form.

Consequently, on July 28, 2018, a conference was held at the Presidential Palace under the name of "Mosques-Voice Raising against Corruption".

More than 200 Ulema from all over Afghanistan attended the conference. They criticized the pervasive corruption in the country. The president requested religious scholars to disclose the perpetrators of corruption through tribune of mosques. At the conference, apart from religious scholars from across the country, officials from the attorney general's office, Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs and various other government officials also attended.

These conferences have been held to strengthen public awareness of the desire of the government's leadership in combating corruption and mobilizing local authorities and scholars to fight corruption.

Goal #2: Hold a national consultative conference on ensuring electoral integrity for the 2019 presidential election

Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat did not receive any specific report from other organizations on the establishment of a National Advisory Council to ensure electoral integrity for the 2019 presidential elections. However, President Ghani reassured people on ensuring transparency for the upcoming election at the SOM (Senior Official Meeting) that was held on 27th August 2018 and various collective and individual conferences and meetings with political parties.

According to the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat assessment, this goal has been partially implemented.

Goal #3: Advance the use of biometric electronic voting technology in all large cities

The process of distributing electronic ID Cards began on April 2018 and is under progress. However, the use of biometric electronic voting technology has not been implemented in large cities of the country. Therefore, this goal has not been fulfilled under context of Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat.

Goal #4: Enforce full (100%) compliance with asset disclosure and verification requirements for senior officials

Based on the Article 154 of the Constitution, in the past six months the Administrative Office of the President has registered assets of 9,153 officials, which includes all high-ranking officials under Article 154 of the Constitution, except for the first Vice-President, and 148 asset disclosure forms have been published on the website of this office. Furthermore, names and job titles of 10,500 high-ranking government officials whose assets are registered have been prepared and translated to English for response to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and according to the H.E. the President's instruction, circulars were sent to all ministries and institutions in order to register assets of state officials and employees.

Goal #5: Support parliamentary leadership to develop an anti-corruption action plan for the Parliament and support its implementation

The Upper House (Meshrano Jirga) or the National Assembly of Afghanistan has reported that they have prepared and shared their Action Plan with the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat; meanwhile, Lower House (Wolesi Jirga) has declined to prepare and share their Anti-Corruption Action Plan.

Since one house of parliament from the two Houses has sent the Anti-Corruption Action Plan to the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat, this goal is considered to be partially implemented.

Goal #6: Revise civil and criminal substantive and procedural laws to foster the prosecution of corrupt individuals, to promote the recovery of illegally obtained assets

Regarding the review of Civil and Criminal Codes to improve the prosecution of corrupt individuals and the seizure of illegally acquired assets, the new Criminal Code was enforced on 28/11/1396. Chapter five, the fourth provision of the Code, is dedicated to crimes related to corruption and the seizure of illicit assets, and sanctions and penalties have been articulated, and improvements have been made in this regard compared to the previous Criminal Code. According to the Supreme Court's report, the Civil Code and Commercial Code are under review which will be completed in the third quarter.

According to the assessment of the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat, since the review of the above laws has not been completed yet, this goal is partially implemented.

Goal #7: Facilitate the exclusion of those convicted of corruption from public service

To facilitate the exclusion of offenders of corruption from government positions, there are certain guarantees and measures in the new Penal Code and the amendment of the Civil Service Law, for the perpetrators of bribery and embezzlement. If the perpetrator is a civil servant, according to the situations, exclusion from the profession or discharge from duty will be considered as highly likely outcomes. If an official proposes for appointment a convicted civil servant that is excluded from the profession, he/she risks imprisonment.

In addition, the law excludes any civil servant from civil service for five years should they be convicted of corruption-related crimes with an imprisonment sentence of up to one year. If a civil servant is convicted of a corruption crime with an imprisonment sentence of over one year, he/she will be permanently excluded from serving as a civil servant.

According to the entities' reports in the past six months, 2,635 types of corruption cases have been sent to the departments at the General Attorney's Office. However, no information has been sent to the Special Secretariat regarding the exclusion of such persons from their government positions.

Goal #8: Pass a Whistleblower's Protection Act and other necessary laws

The draft Whistleblowers Protection Law was submitted to the Ministry of Justice by Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) on 7/2018 and after the end of the legislative process (Tadqiq) by the Ministry of Justice and High Council on Law, Justice and Anti-corruption; it was submitted to the cabinet on 13/9/2018, which has been approved principally at the meeting.

Goal #9: Mobilize and strengthen High Council on Law, Justice and Anticorruption

In order to strengthen and better coordinate its affairs, the High Council of the Rule of Law and Anti-corruption has created a Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat under the Office of the President. The Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat consists of a group of experts in five key areas: monitoring key ministries/departments, revenue and expenditure, specific decisions of the High Council on Rule of law, anti-corruption, and communications and evaluation. Currently most of the required staff has been recruited.

The special secretariats, based on the National Anti-corruption Strategy, receive reports on implementation of the strategy from the ministries/government departments, and present unified report to the president through National High Council for Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption meetings twice a year. Currently, the Special Correctional Anti-Corruption Specialist has finalized 53 Anti-Corruption Action Plans of ministries and administrations.

Goal #10: Create an independent Ombudsman related to the Attorney General's Office for the President's Office aligned with Article 69 ("presidential accountability") of the Constitution

The office of the Independent Ombudsman was established following the Presidential Decree – No. 3 dated 5/12/2018 – within the Office of the President. While the Ombudsman Office comes within the structure of the Office of the Chiefs of Staff of the President, it is independent within its scope of work. The scope of work of this office is limited to fight against corruption which is based on complaints regarding the activities of the presidential units and the top-ranked officials. The essential responsibility of this office is to draft the Ombudsman Office's Law, which will be completed within three months after the appointment of the Ombudsman.

Goal #11: Introduce an awards program for civil servant individual and team achievement in fighting corruption

In order to encourage civil servants to play an effective role in combating corruption, innovate, and improve service delivery in ministries and civil service agencies, based on the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, an awarding program has been established to recognize the achievements of civil servants (individuals and groups) in the fight against corruption. This program has been published through the advertisement website of the Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission and will be shared with all ministries and departments at the provincial and central level by sending an official letter. Also, the Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission has set out and established a specific guideline that includes the introduction of awards, standards and to select superior employees to receive prizes, the process of sending requests, the mechanism and selection process for superior employees, the various awards, and the action plan to implement this program.

Goal #12: Expand public engagements by senior officials to discuss progress on fighting corruption in national media

The Ministry of Justice has issued 5,000 copies of the Criminal Code for spreading public awareness about the fight against corruption. In addition, the head of the Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission held a meeting with the heads of the media at the headquarters of the commission on the first week of 2/1397, based on the Anti-Corruption Administrative Action Plan of the commission and the continuous series of meetings for public awareness. It should be noted that the H.E. President of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Minister of the Interior, Minister of Transport and Minister of Finance, have usually provided information in the domestic media, especially the National Television, on corruption issues.

In addition to the above activities, a number of senior officials from ministries and departments will present major anti-corruption activities and achievements through weekly press conferences for public awareness. Based on the evaluation of the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat, this goal has been partially implemented.

Goal #13: Create Reformer Networks in the Ministry of Finance, the revenue and high spending ministries

The relevant departments did not report on their specific activities and measures to establish reform networks in their departments. According to the Ministry of Finance, this network has not been established in the Ministry, and Ministry of Finance is part of the Public Procurement Logistics Reform Coalition, which was established by the National Procurement Authority and aimed at supporting the reform of the procurement system of the country.

Since the ministries and departments did not report on their specific measures to implement this goal, the implementation of this goal had a limited progress in the past six months.

Goal #14: Strengthen an Independent Board for Senior Security Official Appointments

To strengthen the Independent Board for Senior Security Official Appointments, according to Decree No. 733 dated 26/10/1397, the High Council on supervision of the appointments of the senior officers of the security and defense forces under the National Security Council. The main activities of this board, in accordance with its work plan, are to review and assess the appointments and promotion in the security sector. In the last six months, the Board has evaluated 89 individuals in the appointment and 37 in the promotion sections of the Ministry of Defense, 171 individuals in the appointment and 45 in the promotion sections of the Ministry of Interior Affairs, and 3 individuals in the appointment and 3 in the promotion sections of the National Security Council.

Goal 15: Monitor enforcement of strengthened "open government" laws in the revenue and high spending ministries

To monitor the implementation of the principles of open government in the Ministry of Public Health, the plan to establish an organization to validate the delivery of health services in the country, with the consultancy of relevant civil institutions has been finalized and sent to the Cabinet for approval. The civil society monitoring mechanism has been finalized on the quality and transparency of education and training in coordination with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education. A National Committee for Monitoring Transparency and Quality of Education was created by the Ministries of Education and Higher Education. Additionally, work is ongoing to create the provincial committees in Balkh, Herat, Kandahar and Nangarhar provinces.

The Board of Reforming the Informational Units has been formed to coordinate with the Ministry of Information and Culture in order to compile the program and tools to determine the method of assessing the Information Units. The evaluation process of 60 information units is currently underway by the Board and the evaluation findings will be published through the website of the Ministry of Information and Culture. The reporting units of the revenue and expenditure ministries are also included in this assessment. It should be noted that after the evaluation process, the plan to improve the capacity of Information Units will be based on the findings. According to the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat assessment, this goal has limited progress.

Pillar 2: Ending Corruption in the Security Sector

One of the serious obligations of the national unity government is to create fundamental reforms and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the security institutions. Afghanistan's security sector employs over 350,000 people and receives billions of dollars in international and domestic funds every year. Bringing reforms to the Ministry of Interior Affairs, which includes Police, is (i) creating a clear appointments process; (ii) ensuring a transparent defense planning and budgetary process; (iii) instituting civilian fiduciary oversight control systems; (iv) eliminating ghost soldiers and police officers; and (v) expanding the security sector's dialogue with civil society.



Figure 4: Major achievements in pillar 2

This pillar consists of 10 (100%) major goals, that over the past six months, 7 (70%) of them have been achieved partially, 2 (20%) of them had limited progress and 1 (10%) goal has not been achieved yet.



Figure 5: Percentage of improvements in the pillar 2

Details of major achievements in reforming the security sector based on the goals and benchmarks set out in the National Anti-Corruption Strategy are as follows:

Goal #1: Competent and qualified leadership in the Ministry of Interior

Based on the MoI reports, civil and military appointments at the ministry in the past 6 months take place on the merit (open competition). Individuals in this ministry are appointed based on their competence, talent, and professionalism.

The appointment of Wais Barmak to lead the ministry, and the replacement of the senior deputy ministers of this ministry demonstrates competent leadership at the Ministry of Interior Affairs and facilitation of reforms. Corruption in the security institutions is considered as a deterrent to the development and strengthening of the security forces. Therefore, the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy to combat corruption and bring reforms in different parts of the Afghanistan National Army and evaluate their functions requires individuals who are committed and familiar with policy-making issues and bringing reforms in this ministry.

The MoI did not report on the selection of competent leadership in this ministry. Therefore, this goal has not been fully implemented according to the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat, and has been partially implemented.

Goal #2: Provide guidelines and audit senior security-related appointments and promotions

Based on the Ministry of Interior Affairs' reports, the Ministry has created a human resources policy and Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) at the ministry. These standardized procedures describe the way interviews are conducted with candidates who are going to be appointed in senior positions. A Senior Executive Board has been established at the leadership level of the ministry to oversee the recruitment process, and all of the officers at the Kabul police districts have been recruited on a merit basis.

The MoI has conducted an assessment in 10, 11, and 15 Police Districts of Kabul to evaluate their performance. Based on this assessment, Police District #10 has received the title of "Reform Initiative Model" in the ANP through Mol's leadership. To improve reforms in the 10th police district a plan has been prepared, if it is proven effective in the performance of Police, this plan will be implemented in all Police Districts under MOI. It should be noted that a High Council on the Overseeing the Appointments of Senior Defense and Security Officers has been established under the National Security Council. It also reviews and evaluated appointments and promotions in the security sector.

An internal guideline for auditing appointments and promotions related to senior security positions has not been made yet. Therefore, this goal is considered to be partially implemented.

Goal #3: Review and replace all MoI deputy ministers, director generals, and police chiefs as warranted

In addition to the fact that all provincial police commanders in 34 provinces have been recruited through the civil procedures (Rawand-e-Mulki), on the other hand, on 10t May 2018, the Commander of Security and police officers in Kabul have been appointed and some have been replaced based on an open competition. In terms of security sector deputy ministers' evaluation, Deputy Minister for Security and first deputy minister have been hired after the appointment of current Minister.

In order to prevent corruption in the Ministry of National Defense, the positions of a total of 1,777 officials have been replaced through the rotation process. According to the Ministry of Defense, the Rotation periods and recruitments have been carried out on a merit basis and the replacement of senior officials is currently ongoing.

According to the above figures, and that the appointments of General Directors in all provinces have not been completed, this goal has been partially implemented.

Goal #4: Clarify the mandates of defense and policing, transfer Afghan National Civil Order Police (ANCOP) and the border guards from the Interior to the Defense Ministry, with all senior commanders to undergo full review

In light of the four-year security plan of the Ministry of Interior which aims to bring reforms in the security sector and clarify the mandates of defense and policing, the H.E. President issued a decree to transfer the ANCOP and border police from the Interior Ministry to the Defense Ministry, that is already implemented.

Although the mandates of MoD are clearly known, and the transition of the ANCOP and the Border Police to the Ministry of Defense have been completed, anddespite the deadline set in the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, the full review of the performance of all senior security commanders by the Ministry of Interior and National Defense has not been completed. Therefore, this goal has been partially completed.

Goal #5: Establish a police ombudsman to handle complaints against the police

According to the reports of Ministry of Interior Affairs, a proposal to establish a police ombudsman office is made in order to handle complaints against the police within the structure of the Audit Office of MoI. Therefore, about 33 cases of complaints from the 119 Police Information Center have been investigated and 30 cases have been sent for prosecution. While the special police ombudsman office has not been formally established, two people have been assigned to collect and review complaints in the MoI. However, the Ministry did not share the mentioned proposal and supporting documents related to the implementation of this goal to the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat. Therefore, due to the lack of clarification in relation to the establishment of the police ombudsman and the low level of statistics provided by the assigned complaints' investigators, this goal is considered to have a limited progress so far.

Goal #6: Identify and revise laws needed for security sector reform

According to the reports from Ministries and institutions, to bring the much-needed reforms in the security sector, the laws and policies of this sector have been somewaht evaluated. The personal affairs Law has been amended to encourage army and police officers aged 55 to 65 to retire, paving the way for 5000 young officers to get promotion to the Officer positions and above. The police law has also been reviewed and revised. It is worth mentioning that both the Defense and Interior ministries did not share the revised Intrinsic Law with the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat.

According to the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat assessment, this goal has had a limited progress.

Goal #7: Complete a security sector fiduciary risk assessment

According to the deadline set by the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, the fiduciary risks assessment in the security sector, due by the end June 2018, should have been completed by the Ministry of Finance, yet there is no progress done by the Ministry of Finance in this regard in both the Defense and Interior ministries currently.

Thus, based on the prospective of the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat, this goal has not been implemented yet.

Goal #8: Complete personnel inventory and discharge or prosecute commanders for ghost police

In order to achieve this goal, Ministry of Interior Affairs in the last six months has partly completed the process of registration and the biometric system, where the data of up to

112,599 National Afghan Police, 27,268 Local Afghan Police and 4,272 prison guards were included in this system. This process is still ongoing and the biometric process of all personnel at this ministry will be completed soon.

According to reports provided by the Ministry of National Defense, the biometric system of all personnel in the ministry National Defense and Chief of Armed Staff has been completed. In addition, 90% of employees from National Defense and Chief of Armed Staff have been enrolled in the electronic payrolls. Based on the Ministry National Defense's report, a working committee identifying ghost soldiers and fighting against corruption was established within the Ministry of Defense structure. Since then, this committee was able to recognize 598 ghost soldier in Farah, Badghis, Uruzgan and Helmand including six Senior Officers, who were introduced to the judicial system for questioning. Additionally, the procedure of registering personnel in Laghman, Panjsheer, Samangan, Kabul, Bamiyan, Dykundi, Zabul, Nimroz, Balkh, Herat, Parwan, and Urezghan has been completed. In addition, this activity is also being implemented in Helmand, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Khost, Maidan Wardak, Kunar, Badakhshan, Takhar, Ghoor and Kapisa provinces.

As the process of biometric and electronic payrolls for police and soldiers are not fully completed in the both Interior and Defense Ministries, this goal is partially implemented.

Goal #9: Review and replace all provincial police chiefs as warrant

According to the MoI report, 14 provincial security commanders so far have been appointed and transferred, and the investigation and transfer of the security commanders of all provinces have not been completed. Therefore, based on the prospective of the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat, this goal is considered to be partially implemented.

Goal #10: Expand electronic payroll to all accessible districts

According to the latest Ministry of Interior Affairs' report, that is provided to the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat, local police units are taking their lead in securing over 206 districts of 31 provinces. Therefore, Ministry of Interior has been able to transfer 97.7% of the salary of police directly through bank accounts; 0.14% of them through the mobile money system and 2.15% through reliable representatives in areas with no access to banking system. Similarly, the Ministry of Defense has provided 90% of its personnel with the APPS system where they can receive their salary payments electronically. It should be noted that the process of APPS is under progress and will be completed soon. This goal is considered to be partially implemented.

Pillar 3: Replacing Patronage with Merit

Merit-based recruitment, which is being done through collective civil service exams, is an effective strategy for fighting corruption. Various academic researches indicate that there is a correlation between merit-based recruitment and reduction of corruption.¹ Merit-based recruitment through public announcement of positions and holding of collective exams has played a positive role in fighting corruption.



Figure 6: Major achievements in pillar 3

¹ Morten Egeberg, Åse Gornitzka and Jarle Trondal, *Merit-based recruitment boosts good governance: how do European Union agencies recruit their personnel*, University of Oslo, 2017, 1, available at https://www.duo.uio.no/bitstream/handle/10852/55772/trondal-egeberg-gornitzka-merit-boost-good-governance.pdf?sequence=1

This pillar consists of 14 (100%) major goals from which, 10 goals (71.4%) are achieved, 2 goals (14.2%) are partially achieved and 2 goals (14.2%) have limited progress.



Figure 7: Percentage of improvements in the pillar 3

The major progress and achievements by goals and benchmarks of this pillar, towards institutionalizing a meritocratic civil service system and replacing patronage with merit in the past six months are as followed:

Goal #1: Revise and approve laws and guidelines required for institutionalizing a transparent civil service system

In order to achieve this goal, the Civil Servants Law has been amended to strengthen the process of assessing civil servants' performance and regulating disciplinary affairs, transfer and promotion and training of cadres in civil service institutions. According to this law, the recruitment of deputy ministers in civil service agencies in row A (super and superior positions), are recruited based on predefined criteria and according to the needs of the agencies through free competition and based on merit. Moreover, recruitment of individuals in grade 1 and 2 civil service positions is also done by the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission\. Based on this law, the Civil Service Commission oversees the recruitment of lower level civil service positions as well.

To better regulate and ensure the legality of administrative procedures and processes and to strengthen the rule of law and good governance in the country, the draft Administrative Procedure Law was approved by the Cabinet and endorsement by the President, published in the official gazette, and is now enforced. Moreover, in order to ensure the transparency and credibility of civil service recruitment processes, the procedure for mass recruitment of civil servants was amended, which has enabled civil society and media outlets to monitor all stages of civil service recruitment. It is worth noting that this procedure will be re-adjusted to improve collective recruitment processes after reviewing its effectiveness by consulting civil service agencies.

In addition, to ensure transparency of government recruitments, the special procedures for Capacity Building for Results Program (CBR) was also amended and the policy for increasing women's participation in civil service and women's safety at work has been established.

Goal #2: Advertise all positions publicly

The Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC), since last year, has publicly advertised 700 procurement positions of government ministries, 9,000 grades 5 and 6 civil service positions in the capital and provinces, 8,000 vacant positions for teachers and 700 positions of teacher trainers in the capital and provinces, and the commerce attaché positions. In addition, the Civil Service Commission has created a single portal to announce all civil service positions. Applicants can obtain the relevant forms online and send their application through the portal after completion. It enhances the transparency of government recruitment processes and promotes citizens access to announcements of government jobs.

Goal #3: Ensure competitive selection

For this purpose, the Civil Service Commission has conducted several rounds of mass recruitment exams over the past six months, using electronic systems, under the supervision of civil society and media representatives in the capital and all provinces. Major activities in this area include holding two rounds of mass exams for the recruitment of 700 procurement positions of government ministries and agencies, assessing their documents and conducting interviews with candidates for grade 2 and 3 positions; holding mass exams for the recruitment of 9,000 grades 5 and 6 civil servants' positions in 33 provinces and assessing the candidates' documents; and conducting mass exams for the recruitment of 8,000 vacancies for teachers and 700 teacher trainers and assessing the candidates' documents in 33 provinces.

The aforementioned collective exams have been carried out in *Concor* (university entrance exams) format, the process of which starts with biometric registration of the applicants and includes scoring and evaluating answer sheets with special machines, which are designed to ensure greater transparency and prevent interferences of people in the recruitment processes. It also ensures recruitment of civil servants based on merit and open competition. The use of information technology in recruitment has also provided an opportunity for public institutions to monitor the recruitment process. As by using this system, the departments can monitor the various stages of the recruitment process and obtain information on the recruitment process concerning their respective organizations.

Goal #4: Centralize examination, training and certification for all common ministry functions (procurement, financial management, human resource development)

According to reports from the Civil Service Commission, following the completion of recruitment process of the 700 procurement positions of government agencies, all new procurement staff have been introduced to the three-month training programs by the National Procurement Institute of the National Procurement Authority (NPA). By the completion of these training programs, the certification process of the ministries' procurement function was completed in line with the National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

Since only the certification of the procurement function of the government has been completed so far, this Goal is partially implemented and this Goal will be considered fully implemented when the certification of other common ministry functions such as financial management and human resource development is completed.

Goal #5: Revitalize the civil service training center and curriculum, with at least 5,000 inductees taking core courses in public administration, civil service gender policies, and anti-corruption

The civil service training center has been revitalized and after identifying the training needs of the newly recruited civil service employees, 50 rounds of training programs on anti-corruption, civil service gender policies and public administration have been designed for 4,000 newly recruited civil servants. Preparation of training materials and curriculum is part of designing these training programs. Based on the training plan, the training programs will be conducted in the central and provincial levels.

Goal #6: Benchmark senior civil servant pay grades against market salaries

According to a report from Civil Service Commission, a committee composed of the Ministry of Finance, Civil Service Commission and the World Bank has been formed at the Ministry of Finance for implementation of this Goal. This committee is working to prepare a proposal which then will be submitted to the President for his approval. As the activities just have begun for achieving this Goal, this Goal has limited progress.

Goal #7: Identify, protect, and promote honest, dedicated civil servants

In order to identify and encourage honest and dedicated civil servants them to play an effective role in the fight against corruption, the Civil Service Commission has launched an awards program to appreciate individual and collective achievements of civil servants. The program has been publicly announced and notified to all civil servants across the country. In order to manage it effectively, the Civil Service Commission has published guidance which includes an introduction to awards, selection requirements and criteria for selecting top employees for the awards, the process of submitting requests, the selection mechanism and the process and implementation plan on their website.

Goal #8: Compulsory retirement packages for 1,000 civil servants between the ages of 55 and 65 having 12 grades or lower educational levels

According to reports from ministries/institutions, since the adoption of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy to date, 1,062 civil servantsbetween the ages of 55 and 65 having 12 grades or lower educational levels have been driven to retirement. From this number, 994 civil servants were driven to retirement by their relevant ministries/institutions and 68 of them were driven to retirement voluntarily. As a result, this goal has been fully implemented. For more information on this, refer to the table in Appendix III to this report.

It should be noted that 18 ministries/institutions, including the Independent General Directorate for Coordination of Kuchi Affairs, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the National Security Council, which have not taken any measures in this regard in the past six months, have identified 1,914 civil servants to retire or to be introduced to educational opportunities in the next quarter.

Goal #9: Give education options to at least 5,000 superannuated or nonperforming, after which they will either meet performance criteria or leave the civil service

According to reports from ministries/departments, since the adoption of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy to date, 6,351 superannuated or non-performing civil servants have been encouraged to resign, have resigned, or have been provided educational opportunities for their capacity development. This include 2,208 civil servants, aged between 55 and 65, who were driven to retirement or encouraged to retire or resign, and 4,143 civil servants with poor performance who were introduced to educational opportunities. As a result, this goal has been fully implemented. For more information on this, please refer to the table in Appendix III to this report.

Goal #10: Strengthen the Civil Service Commission's regional and provincial offices to support sub-national governance improvements

Based a report from the Civil Service Commission, in order to strengthen local governance, the departments of the Faryab, Bamyan, Badakhshan, Ghazni, Khost, Kunar and Ghor departments have been upgraded to provincial directorates. In addition, due to the presence of a large number of civil servants on the local level, the Civil Service Commission has strengthened its 20 provincial offices in terms of their capacities to oversee appointments, monitor and appraise performance of civil servants, and use information technology in their daily work; despite constraints in its organizational structures. The aim of these measures has been to ensure that accurate monitoring of appointment processes, mass recruitment exams and appraisals of employees' annual performance in provincial level is conducted and these functions results in reduction of corruption and improvement of performance at the local level.

Goal #11: Launch a public communications campaign to promote a culture of accountability

The Civil Service Commission, in the continuation of the series of previous meetings for public awareness, organized a meeting with media officials in the second quarter of the year 1397. At this meeting directors and journalists from Tolo News, Ariana News, 1TV, Khorshid, BBC, Shamshad, Azadi Radio, Salam Watandar, 8 AM Newspaper, 8AM Newspaper, Etelaat Roz Daily Newspaper, Pajhwok Afghan News, Payk, the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal participated. The aim of this event has been to promote awareness on the status of civil service and administrative reforms and to change the possible negative attitudes in this regard.

As this activity has just begun, and based on Civil Service Commission's Anti-Corruption Action Plan, some other activities will also be implemented for implementation of this Goal. Therefore, based on Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat's observations, this Goal has had limited progress.

Goal #12: Introduce citizen feedback mechanisms into the Civil Service Commission

The leadership board of Civil Service Commission holds hearing sessions for citizens and civil servants on Mondays from 09:00 AM to 02:30-03:00 PM. In these sessions, they receive feedback and complaints from citizens and civil servants on recruitment processes and human resource management related issues. During the past six months, about 24 hearing sessions were held by the leadership board of Civil Service Commission, in which feedback and complaints of 1,294 citizens and civil servants, from which 114 of them have been women, have been heard and addressed.

The feedback and complaints received during the past six months have been on civil servant-office problems, legal disputes, problems in CBR procedures and human resources, personal problems, unemployment, recruitment problems, and performance appraisals and promotions. The major actions taken by the Civil Service Commission include providing convincing explanations and legal guidance and advice, issuing guidance to relevant authorities, establishing coordination and working relationships with government institutions and arranging meetings with their officials for referral and resolutions of their problems and complaints.

Goal #13: Create civil society and media oversight mechanisms to monitor major recruitment drives

The Civil Service Commission has amended the collective/mass recruitment procedures in order to facilitate civil society and media monitoring of the recruitment processes. By amending this procedure, the opportunity to step-by-step monitoring of recruitment processes has been provided to civil society and media. As a result, the Civil Service Commission reports that since last year, civil society and media have monitored public announcement of job vacancies, mass exams and interviews for procurement positions and commerce attaché positions, fifth and sixth grades civil service positions, teachers and teacher training centers' cadres' positions.

Goal #14: Systematically overhaul teacher recruitment

The Civil Service Commission publicly announced 8,000 teachers and 700 teachers training center cadres' positions, and after initial examinations of their applications, the Commission identified 119,241 eligible applicants and subsequently has held mass exams in 33 provinces. Only Kabul's mass exams were not held in the first six months of the fiscal year 1397 due to inaccessibility of the Concur exams' machines and will be held in early third quarter of the fiscal year. Therefore, the teachers' recruitment process has been completed in almost all provinces and specialist and professional cadres of teachers have been introduced to educational institutions.

Since the systematic recruitment process for teachers based on merit has not been completed in all provinces, the implementation of this Goal is considered partially implemented.

Pillar 4: Prosecuting the Corrupt

Implementation of reforms in the justice sector and restoring its credibility has been one of the main priorities of the Afghan government, and over the past few years continued efforts have been made towards fulfilling this priority through designing and implementing various policies and programs. Accordingly, eliminating corruption and strengthening the justice sector are the major priorities and objectives of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy. The National Anti-Corruption Strategy considers the success of the fight against corruption to be based on advancing the rule of law, emphasizing the balance between preventive measures and punitive measures in anti-corruption activities.

The main priorities of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy in this pillar are including reforming and amending the legal anti-corruption documents; solving the problem of parallel anti-corruption institutions through the integration of all anti-corruption bodies into the Attorney General's Office with the exception of the Independent Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) and creating an Anti-Corruption Deputy at the Attorney General's Office; reviewing of the organizational structure and strengthening of the human resources of the legal and judicial organs; reforming the Legislative, Huquq and Government Cases Departments of the Ministry of Justice; strengthening the judiciary's independence and promoting access to justice through holding open trial sessions; strengthening transparency in judicial appointments; strengthening complaints handling mechanisms; and enhancing transparency in the performance and accountability of legal and judicial organs.



Figure 8: Major achievements in pillar 4

This pillar consists of 11 (100%) major goals, from which, over the past six months 6 (54.5%) goals have been fully achieved, 4 (36.3%) goals have been partially achieved, and 1 (9%) goals had limited progress.



Figure 9: Percentage of improvements in the pillar 4

The details of major progress based on the goals set out in this pillar are as follows:

Goal #1: Create internal justice sector Appointment Commissions to oversee appointments and prevent the interference of others, including the executive branch and legislative branch, in the affairs of the justice sector

According to the Supreme Court reports, the High Committee of Judicial Appointments and the High Committee of Administrative Appointments have been established in order to improve the judicial and administrative affairs of the judiciary. This committee consists of the three members of High Council of the Supreme Court of Afghanistan, the General Administrative Office of the Judiciary, head of the Supreme Court secretariat and the General Director of Human Resources. The committee is required to do a comprehensive review of the personal affairs of the judges and submit its report to the High Council of the Supreme Court for decision-making purposes. The activities of this committee are overseen and audited by the High Council of the Supreme Court. During the past six months, 223 judges have been appointed or transferred by the High Committee of Judicial Appointments and 225 administrative staff have been appointed or transferred by the High Committee of Administrative Appointments.

This objective has been reported as complete according to the report of the Supreme Court and therefore, this goal is considered to be fully completed.

Goal #2: Identify and revise as needed laws related to anti-corruption

In this regard, the Access to Information Law was amended based on the international standards and lessons learned from the implementation of access to information laws in

other countries, in order to strengthen citizens' access to information in the country. The law was put into effect by a Legislative Decree on 28 February2018. Also, the Anti-Corruption Law was amended by the Legislative Affairs Institute of the Ministry of Justice and was discussed at a Cabinet meeting on 05 September 2018, and because of the existence of some gaps and deficiencies, it was decided that it should be amended by the Ministry of Justice, under the supervision of His Excellency the Second Vice-President of Islamic Republic Afghanistan, in the light of the Cabinet's corrective comments.

In addition, the Law on the Procedure of Publication and Enforcement of Legislative Documents has been amended and the Whistleblowers Protection Law has been approved by the Cabinet recently, on 03 September 2018.

Goal #3: Complete the human resource review and execute the action plan to increase the capacity of judges and prosecutors to handle corruption cases, including training law clerks for all courts, in line with the new penal code

The Attorney General's Office has reformed its organization structure and human resources. This work has been done to increase the AGO's work effectiveness, coordination and accountability, and to prevent organizational inflation and overlap of tasks between different organizations. Establishing a deputy attorney general for anticorruption and merging anti-corruption departments and creating new departments within the structure of this deputy office are major improvements in this regard.

All people who have studied in law and sharia have been transferred from administrative positions to professional positions after attending the judicial {Setazh-e Qazai-e} training program. Heads of central and provincial offices have been changed. Young professionals have been recruited in order to rejuvenate the administration, as over the past six months, about 200 people, including 93 eligible women, have been recruited for the attorney general's offices over the country. As a result, the presence of women has risen from 3 percent to 21 percent in order to promote gender equality at the Attorney General's Office. The office of performance evaluation of prosecutors has been established within the Human Resources Development of the Attorney General's Office. The recruitment of people in the key departments through the CBR program and the establishment of a human resources management information system are other major activities reported by the Attorney General's Office.

In addition, the Attorney General's Office oversees training programs for the training of prosecutors, in its new five-year strategic plan and for this purpose, the directorate of vocational trainings has been established within the structure of the Attorney General's Office, which willprovide 57 rounds of educational programs for prosecutors until the end of the current fiscal year.

The Supreme Court has reviewed its organizational structure in 1397, in line with the fight against corruption and enhancing transparency and human resources reform

activities, and has adjusted the organizational structure of the courts to their workload. As a result, a number of positions have been removed, modified, merged, and added. In addition, the Administrative positions of the Supreme Court have been introduced to the administrative reforms process through a memorandum of understanding with the Civil Service Commission, so that the administrative structure of the judiciary is re-evaluated by the Civil Service Commission in order to standardize it by their experts. Also, the presence of women in professional, administrative and servicing of the judiciary has increased to 23%. To institutionalize merit-based recruitment and maintaining transparency in recruitment processes, all judicial and administrative recruitments are carried out through the above mentioned high committees of judicial and administrative appointments. In the recruitment process, commitment, expertise and accountability of the staff are considered and efforts have been made to give the jobs to the right persons in order to achieve positive results. The administrative staff is appointed through the Civil Service Commission, and as of now, 244 positions have been put to public announcement.

The implementation of this goal will be completed by completing the reform of the Supreme Court's administrative positions and training of judges and clerks, and this goal is now considered to be partly implemented.

Goal #4: Consolidate all anti-corruption bodies except the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption and Evaluation Committee (MEC) under the office of the Attorney General

For this purpose, the deputy Attorney General for Anti-Corruption has been created in the Attorney General's Office and the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption has been dissolved and merged with this deputy. Also, the Prosecution Directorate of Anti-Corruption, the Prosecution Directorate for Combating Corruption and Crimes committed by the National Security officers and the Prosecution Directorate for Combating Military Corruption Crimes have also been brought under the umbrella of this deputy. In addition, the structure of the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption along with the General Directorate for the Investigation and Extradition of Illegal Assets and the Directorate for Fighting against the International Crimes were merged and established under the structure of this deputy.

Goal #5: Create a new Office of the Deputy Attorney General for Anti-Corruption

In order to achieve this goal, a new office of the deputy Attorney General for Anti-Corruption has been established at the Attorney General's Office and the Deputy has already been appointed and started work

Goal #6: Reform the offices of Taqnin [Legislative Drafting], Huquq [Legal Affairs], and Qaza-e Dowlat [Government Cases] in the Ministry of Justice
In order to achieve this goal, the Ministry of Justice has revised the law on the procedure of publication and enforcement of legislative documents in order to provide public participation in the legislative process and to ensure transparency and accountability of the process through Afghanistan Open Government Partnership Forum. Similarly, in order to provide public access to civil cases and maintain transparency and expedition of implementation of court decisions in this area and differentiation of professional staff in the Department of Huquq, the executive procedure of the staff of Department of Huquq has been reviewed. Over the past six months, a total number of 1397 civil cases, including property, family, commercial, etc. cases, have been registered in the Civil Case Management System.

Moreover, according to the Ministry of Justice report, about 94 employees participated in the Legislative training program, held by the Department of Study, Description and Training of Laws of the Legislative Institute and 23 employees of Department of Government Cases have been trained in legal dispute resolution, rule of law, the provision of justice and legal and sharia-based defense of public interests and rights.

Finally, to distinguish between professional and non-professional staff and reforming of these departments, the professional capacity of 522 staff in the Ministry of Justice's Huquq, Government Cases and Legal Aid Departments, have been evaluated in cooperation with the Civil Service Commission.

According to the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat's findings, the implementation of this goal has not been completed yet, and is considered partly implemented.

Goal #7: Advance the extradition and prosecution of convicted criminals living abroad through international agreements

In order to expedite the extradition and prosecution of corruption offenders who are living abroad, the Afghanistan Attorney General's Office has signed agreements with the governments of Tajikistan and Islamic Republic of Iran on extradition of offenders. Through these agreements, 617 people from Iran and 400 people from Tajikistan have been extradited so far. The Attorney General's Office is also signing extradition agreements with Russia, Turkey and Pakistan. In addition, an agreement has been signed with the UAE, but it has not been implemented yet.

In addition, the Asset Recovery Directorate has been established within the Attorney General's Office, and has started its activities from 22 May, 2018. For fighting against transnational crimes, the directorate for fighting international crimes has been established in the Attorney General's Office and has already started work. In the area of combating against drug trafficking, money laundering, and terrorist activities, the Attorney General's Office has strengthened its cooperation with other countries, and in order to improve recovering the stolen assets, the Directorate for the Recovery of Illegal Assets has been established within the Attorney General's Office.

Since some of the activities defined to implement this goal have not been implemented yet, this goal is considered as partially implemented.

Goal #8: All cases identified by the 2013 Shafafiat [Transparency] taskforce will be reviewed by the Attorney General for follow-up actions

According to the Attorney General's Office, an internal coordination committee has been established with the participation of the directorate of fighting against military corruption and planning and policy directorate of the Attorney General's Office. From the total number of cases referred to the Attorney General's Office, 20 cases have been investigated so far. However, as no further details have been provided in this regard, the progress on the implementation of this goal is considered as limited.

Goal #9: Ensure that all provinces have qualified prosecutors and introduce at least 50 prosecutors into secure districts

According to reports from the Attorney General's Office, they have recruited 200 prosecutors during the past six months, from which about half of them have been deployed to provinces after participating in the professional training programs. This will increase people's access to justice and prosecution services in the provinces, and will help all provinces to have professional and qualified prosecutors. The Attorney General's Office has been able to dispatch 52 attorneys in 34 districts over the past six months, of which 10 or 19% of the total number of them are female. As a result, this goal has been fully achieved.

Goal #10: Expand legal aid services, including through budget-based financing to civil society providers

According to the Ministry of Justice report, over the past six months, this Ministry has been able to provide legal aid to 5293 suspected and accused individuals. However, the Ministry of Justice has not report about budget-based funding for civil society providing legal aid. Therefore, this goal is considered to be partly implemented.

Goal #11: Integrate regular media briefings and engagements to increase public awareness of and support for the process

Based on the Supreme Court report, in order to increase public awareness of the functions and performance of the judiciary, the Supreme Court Speaker position has been created within the Supreme Court. Also, awareness-raising activities are conducted through press conferences, interviews and participating in radio and television programs, and reports and other materials are published through the Judiciary Magazine, Mizzen Gazette, the news bulletin in English language and the Supreme Court's website.

The main activities of the Ministry of Justice in this regard are: creating a database that allows for searching for laws and regulations, publication of the Ministry's policies,

plans, organizational charts, annual reports, a list of central and provincial directors, bid announcements, publication of procurement contracts, interviews, and newspapers, responding to two information request forms, publication of the updated list of the political parties, social associations, statistics of the juveniles rehabilitation centers, publishing news and reports of meetings, conferences and leadership seminars.

The Attorney General's Office has also made significant progress in publishing information and public awareness on the activities of their office through their website, holding press conferences to present achievements, publishing journals, magazines, brochures, newspapers and public advertisements of job openings and projects. Its activities have made remarkable progress. A direct weekly meeting of H.E. Attorney General with clients is critical for information sharing and also enhances public awareness on the Attorney General's Office's activities and improve public support to their activities. This goal is fully achieved.

Pillar 5: Following the Money

Focus on financial policy is essential in order to not only bring sound financial and budgetary management but also to track the money in a transparent and auditable manner. This process in itself can act as the basic means of national development. Therefore, over the past years, several efforts have been made in this regard through the design and implementation of various policies and programs. In addition, sound financial and budgetary management requires elimination of corruption in this field, which would be possible through transparent and auditable tracking of money. In order to do so, the National Strategy for Combatting Corruption is mainly focused on Sound Financial and Budgetary Management.

The National Strategy for Combatting Corruption includes the following top priorities in this pillar that are as following; 1. Reforms in the Supreme Audit Office (SAO), 2. Implementing standardized financial systems in all government agencies, 3. Establishing an independent regulatory body to license the accountants, 4. Normalization of audit in all government agencies and, 5. Tackling down on money laundry. Moreover, the National Strategy set 17 distinctive comparative goals as it's milestones and is committed to gradually extend the financial management reforms framework to all Revenues and Expenditure Ministries in coming five years. Achieving these goals, as set forth below, can be vital in achieving the above priorities and completing the indicators contained in this pillar.



Figure 10: Major achievements in pillar 5

To date, out of 16 goals (100%), there has been three (18.7%) achieved goals, eight (50%) of them have been achieved partially, and four (18.7%) have limited progress, while two (12.5%) of them have not been achieved yet.



Figure 11: Percentage of improvements in the pillar 5

The goals and advancements of the entire 5th pillar are as follows:

Goal #1: Implementing the Financial Performance Improvement Program (i.e. budget reform roadmap) by 2019/20

Despite being one of the goals listed in the National Strategy, this goal has not been included in the action plan of the Ministry of Finance in this year. Therefore, there was no action taken to achieve this goal.

Goal #2: Revamping the Ministry of Finance Customs and Revenue department to include compulsory asset declarations, recruitment reforms, and reporting

In order to achieve this goal, the Revenues and Customs Departments of Ministry of Finance (MoF) have been strengthened by the following activities: There is 75% progress in the process of compulsory asset declarations of the high ranking officials; Collaboration of Ministry of Finance with the National Directorate of Security on 'Reforms in Appointments', reporting on the use of tools to combat money laundering such as detecting, tracking and seizing of assets that are accrued through corruption.

In addition, the Ministry of Finance has been able to begin work on installing modules and fiber optics for expanding the Standard Integrated Government Tax Administration System (SIGTAS) in the Herat, Nimroz and Kandahar Customs Departments. Moreover, the Ministry of Finance has implemented an entry and exit gateway system at the Nangarhar, Torkham, Kandahar, Andkhoy, Aqeena, Nimroz and Kabul Customs Departments.

Despite all of the aforementioned achievements, this goal is only partially implemented.

Goal #3: Simplifying and automating key revenue (tax) processes

In order to achieve this goal, the already used Revenue Management Information System, or RMIS - that processes reports on revenue collection in the Large Taxpayers Office - is also expanded to the Medium Taxpayers Office. In addition, the valuation system that is already installed in two border customs departments (Speen-Boldak and Torghondy), is currently under evaluation for two other Customs Departments of Kandahar and Nangrahar. Moreover, the Standard Integrated Government Tax Administration System (SIGTAS) is practically in place in eight provinces of Afghanistan. Some of the activities of the Ministry of Finance also essential in achieving this goal are delayed, including the process of preparing and implementing policies and procedures for performance evaluation of staff, even though this was planned for the first half of the fiscal year. Additionally, the evaluation and mapping of all work processes, development or purchase of the system, and the provision of services and information needed in the system to be implemented has not yet begun. Therefore, this goal is only partially implemented.

Goal #4: Strengthening the Supreme Audit Office through a revision of the Supreme Audit Law

To achieve this goal, the amended Supreme Audit office Law has been sent to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) after second revision for their approval. However, there has been no further development reported in this regard. In addition, the procedures for distribution and handling of the office equipment as well as the mechanism for following up on the findings of the previously conducted audits have been reviewed and consequently revised. Moreover, in order to strengthen its administration, the Supreme Audit Office (SAO) has also drafted procedures for the capacity building of its staff through a variety of training programs at home and abroad. However, since the aforementioned activities are not completed, this goal of the Strategy is also considered to be partially implemented.

Goal #5: Employing 150 trained auditors to the Supreme Audit Office

In order to achieve this goal, the SAO has recruited 38 professional auditors after these positions were approved by the Honorable President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, while 10 other such positions were filled through the Capacity Building for Results Program. In addition, six other contract positions of professional and specialist staff have been filled through a World Bank project during the first six months of this fiscal year. Therefore, there is a limited progress towards achieving this goal.

Goal #6: To Strengthen Internal Audit Offices of the line ministries

In order to achieve this goal, the Ministry of Finance has implemented professional accounting training programs in seven line ministries and two other government departments. These ministries and departments are as followed: the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies,

Ministry of Public Works and Ministry of Commerce and Industries, as well as the Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority and Central Region Independent Development Authority. However, there is a limited progress towards achieving this goal.

Goal #7: Training 200 internal auditors at key security, expenditure, and revenue ministries

There is no activity planned for by the Ministry of Finance and the Supreme Audit Office aiming to achieve this goal. Therefore, this goal is not yet achieved.

Goal #8: Applying the new Accounting Law to all public agencies

In order to achieve this goal, the Ministry of Finance has prepared the Accounting Law to determine the national accounting standards for all public agencies. In addition, the body responsible for implementing the National Accountants' Law - the Independent Accountancy Regulatory Body - is established within the structure of Treasury Department of the Ministry of Finance. Over 60% of its staff are already recruited and trained to undertake their tasks. Moreover, this body has been able to have a landmark achievement by obtaining the membership in Confederation of Asia Pacific Accountants –(CAPA), which is the second largest of such federations globally. Since some of the activities planned to achieve this goal are not yet completed, this goal is partially achieved.

Goal #9: Identifying and revising relevant laws to advance financial transparency

To achieve this goal, all of the planned activities will be completed by 2019-2020. The Ministry of Finance is will revise the Customs' law and other relevant procedures as well as the Public Property Law this year. In addition, the Ministry of Finance has revised all of the contracting and public property log and contracting procedures along with the guidelines for bidding, that are also distributed to all government and provincial finance departments for implementation. Based on the received reports, this goal is partially implemented.

Goal #10: Using anti-money laundering tools to detect, trace, and confiscate any assets accumulated through corruption

In order to achieve this goal, the Ministry of Finance – besides using tax identification methods – collaborated with Da Afghanistan Bank and National Department for Security in collection of information essential for combatting money laundry. As a result, there have been up to 50% of progress in this area. In addition, the Financial Transaction and Reports Analysis Center of Afghanistan (FinTRACA, has handed over two cases – worth \$348 million – to law enforcement agencies considered as possible cases of money laundering, forging documentation, and tax fraud. Moreover, a memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Ministry of Interior and Afghan Chambers of Commerce and industries (ACCI), in order to prevent any possible money laundering

incidents. However, due to incomplete status of some of the planned activities, this goal is also achieved partially.

Goal #11: Licensing auditors and accounting firms

One of the responsibilities of the Independent Accountancy Regulatory Body is to issue licenses to the professional auditors and auditing firms to oversee the quality and performance of the above-mentioned service providers, the process of which has already been initiated. In addition, the process of registering audit companies online has also started. Therefore, in order to inform the line public and private entities, the Afghanistan Professional Accountant Administration (APAA) issued circular letters. Moreover, the APAA administrative department has prepared all the questionnaires for the audit of the companies, which will be implemented after the registration process of the department is completed. Considering the reports and above information this goal is also achieved partially.

Goal #12: Moving the Financial Crimes Taskforce to the Attorney General's Office

A committee was formed under the leadership of the Ministry of Finance, with the participation of various departments including the Office of the Attorney General to examine the case of the transfer of the Financial Transaction and Reports Analysis Center of Afghanistan (FinTRACA) in 1396. Therefore, this committee conducted a review and submitted its report to H.E. the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. As a result, it was decided that the task is completed and there is no need for the transfer of FinTRACA to the Office of Attorney General. Accordingly, this goal has been completely achieved.

Goal #13: Publishing annual budget plans and expenditure reports

In order to achieve this goal, the national budget is not only published online but also mailed to all government entities on a regular basis. It is worth mentioning that budget transparency also is one of the main priorities of the National Strategy. Therefore, it is one of the notable achievements of the Ministry of Finance, where they were able to help Afghanistan achieve the rank of 49in the 2017 Open Budget Index. This index is normally prepared based on a survey that is published by the International Budget Partnership. In addition, the same report ranks Afghanistan as 15th in public participation and 43rd in budget oversight by the legislative force and Supreme Audit Office. Strengthening internal audit offices in Afghan ministries and publishing all procurement, auditing, annual budget plans and settlement accounts online could be effective in this regard. Considering the reports this goal is completely achieved.

Goal #14: Publishing all elements of procurement and audit not explicitly excluded by national security considerations on ministry websites

In order to achieve this goal, the National Procurement Authority publishes all contracts related information on their new online portal. Implementation of the Afghanistan

National Anti-Corruption Strategy in Public Procurement has also been launched in order to pave the way for transparency and prevention of corruption in procurement processes. Meanwhile, to further facilitated this, a transparent public procurement system has been established within the National Procurement Authority. This was brought to reality by reforming the structures, processes, and capacity building of the procurement units of the departments as well as through the capacity building and resource strengthening of the entity itself. It has also facilitated the collection, storage, publication, acces,s and sharing of contract information and the implementation of a transparent public procurement system. Therefore, based on the received reports, this goal is also completely achieved.

Goal #15: Expanding the use of electronic payments and record keeping as rapidly as possible

The Ministry of Finance intends to transfer 80% of salaries of its staff electronically by the end of this fiscal year, while25% of its staff already receive their salaries electronically. Therefore, this goal is partially achieved.

Goal #16: Requesting International Partners to provide expanded technical expertise, capacity building and oversight in end use monitoring of development and security expenditure

The Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat has not yet received any reports on any activities planned for achieving this goal.

Other strategically prioritized activities

The customs department has reported some progress in regard to the implementation of the ARUSHA declaration within its 2017-18 annual plans. In coordination with the International Customs Associations, the Customs Department has prepared an improved ARUSHA document – one of its strategic goals - in New Delhi in April 2018. The implementation of this document is one of the activities listed in this department's Annual Anti-Corruption Plan and will be implemented continuously.

In addition, the Legal unit of the Customs Department has developed and reformed up to 60 procedures. These procedures target the publications of the tariffs and other procedures online, as well as, border customs and other offices. Moreover, the National Customs and Taxation Academy train the representatives of the Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industries as well as the Customs secondary staff.

However, some of the strategically prioritized activities that were planned for this year have not yet been implemented. These activities include the implementation of the completion of the publications of the Tariffs and Procedures online and on other customs offices. In addition, the Supreme Audit Office has reported the dispatch of its audit specialists to the 46 central and three provincial offices along with the preparation of a mechanism to follow up on the findings of the previously conducted audits. During the second quarter of this year, up to 69 government institutions were assessed by the Supreme Audit Office and followed up on the lack of the implementations of the previous findings. However, there was no further details provided to the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat.

Moreover, appointing a professional team to assess the audit reports of the sectorial departments and units of the Deputy's Office of the Professional Affairs – under SAO – was one of the activities planned for the past two quarters. The main task of this team was to ensure the authenticity, standardized practices and completion of the audit report of these departments and units. However, there was no progress reported on the status of this activity either.

Another activity which has no progress update is, is the provision of educational opportunities for the SAO Staff. The intention was to offer a bachelors degree program for those under 55 years oldand only have a high school education. Employees who already have a bachelor's degree or abov, will be provided with the Master's and Doctoral Degree Programs, with a financial commitment of the World Bank. However, due to the World Bank's retreat from its original commitment, this activity has not yet started and the Supreme Audit Department is in search for another financial source to complete this activity.

The Supreme Audit Office had also planned to review and improve the mechanism for the follow up of the audit findings, that is not complete as of yet. The reason for the failure to progress in this area is the postponement of the review to the next high level meeting of the Office. The other incomplete activity of SAO is the planned establishment of the structures to implement the partnership processes. While this activity was planned for the first six month of 1397 fiscal year, it is reported with a 50% of a progress only.

Many of the benchmarks of the National Strategy for Combatting Corruption have made notable progress, however, some of such benchmarks that fall under the Ministry of Finance's responsibility did not make enough progress or were not reached yet. These benchmarks are: 1. The Fiduciary Risk Assessment of the Security Sector benchmark, that has no progress at all, while its final deadline for completion was until the end of June 2018, and 2. The Implementation of the Addis Ababa Tax Initiative and the Common Reporting Standard, to ensure better tax revenue transparency and accountability benchmark that had a deadline for December 2017

Some of the activities that are related to this pillar fall under the National Procurement Authority, which have no progress update of their implementation. These activities are: 1. Centralization of the procurement of goods – of daily use – for procurement institutions, 2. To strengthen and promote a monitoring system aimed at the contracting progresses, based on the open contracting norms, 3. Organizational and capacity assessments of the Procurement Institutions, 4. Implementation of the findings of the external audits, monitoring and evaluation, 5. Rapid transfer of those cases that are suspected of any wrongdoings to the Attorney General's Office and report it to the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat, 6. Independent Audit of all of the issued payments, 7. Appointing an information officer, publishing of the details about the this position and other staff that are related to the field, and 8. Reporting to the Access to Information Commission.

Progress status of implementing the Afghanistan National Strategy for Combatting Corruption in Revenues and Expenditure Ministries

Afghanistan has 70 government institutions - high-level commissions, and agencies – that includes 25 ministries as well. Despite the importance of each and every one of them, the National Strategy for Combatting Corruption prioritizes those institutions that are allocated with the 70% of revenues and expenditure. Divided into two – revenues and expenditure – categories below, for a better focus on combatting corruption.

Revenues and Expenditure Ministries			
Ministries with revenues	Ministries with expenditure		
Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (MoMP)	Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)		
Ministry of Transport (MoT)	Ministry of Education (MoE)		
Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW)	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD)		
Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MoCIT)	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)		
Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC)			

Analysis

Among the significant progress made in the ministries with revenues and expenditure, three of these areas are a. enhancing transparency and access to information, b. amending laws and regulations, and c. streamlining administrative processes by expanding the use of information and communication technologies (ICT). The following is the description of the achievements mentioned above.

In order to increase transparency and provide access to information, the information office has been established in all of these revenue and expenditure ministries. The Information Officers – who are already appointed - provide an opportunity for facilitating public access to information from ministries/agencies and strengthen the access to information culture.

In order to amend the law, these institutions have revised their respective laws and proposed their proposed amendments to the Ministry of Justice over the first two quarters of 1397 fiscal year. Some of these institutions, such as MoMP, MoT and MoCI still await to receive the approval or the feedback from MoJ, before seeking cabinet enactment.

In the area of penalizing offenders, ministries have reviewed cases that have been referred to them by the Attorney General's Office (AGO).

Due to the rule that can be played by the use of Information and Communication Technologies in the optimization of transparency and process simplification and acceleration, all of these ministries have paid significant attention to invest in this area. One of such investments is the creation of information management systems that has been welcomed by most of these ministries. Another positive point to note is that, since the use of information technology makes it possible to establish a link among several ministries - the MOCIT in this regard - has a leading role that strengthens the cooperation and coordination among several governmental institutions. The implementation of the Government Resource Planning (GRP), can be one of the best examples of such leading efforts. The goal is to provide rapid communication, transparency, and ease of administrative processes and provide public services among national entities such as the Supreme Court, National Insurance, Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Services Commission (IARCSC), Ministry of labour, Social affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD), Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), and Ministry of Women affairs (MoWA). Therefore, a memorandum of understanding has been signed between the above institutions in order to implement this system. The pilot project, is being implemented within MoCIT and it is expected to include other ministries in the next few quarters. In addition, MoCIT is also in the process of establishing a Mobile Salary Payment (MSP) system as well as the purchasing systems for the Afghan Telecom Company in order to provide telecommunication services.

The following is a brief discussion of of the major progresses in areas mentioned above:

A: Ministries with Revenues

Ministry of Mines and Petroleum

A. Transparency and access to information

In order to strengthen transparency in the management of the mining contracts the initial draft of the sample contract is prepared in collaboration with the civil society and private sector. This version has been shared with the experts to have their feedback and is ready for finalization.

In addition, to ensure transparency in contract management, the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum has established a committee to investigate the suspended contracts. The work has already begun to examine 14 suspended contracts of the Ministry and the committee investigated the problems and challenges of the mentioned contracts and has prepared its plans for finalizing the contracts. Consequently, the problems with some of the contracts have been resolved, resulting in the beginning of their implementation, while some other existing problems would be resolved in near future. The contracts that are under process are as followed;

- 1. Jabal-u-Saraj Cement Project
- 2. TAPI Project
- 3. Afghan- Tajik Oil Project
- 4. Amu Darya Oil Project
- 5. Badakhshan Gold and Balkhab Copper Project

- 6. Shaida Copper Project
- 7. Zarkashan Gold and Copper Project
- 8. Independent power generation system (liquid gas) (Mazar IPP)
- 9. Independent power generation system (liquid gas)(Bayat IPP)
- 10. Ghori Cement Contract
- 11. Totimaidan Petroleum Field
- 12. Katavaz Oil project, and
- 13. Aynak copper contract.

To ensure transparency in the management of contracts, the ministry has announced the launch of six new projects, including the Jabal- u-Saraj Cement project, Herat Cement Project, Samangan Cement and three Talc, Marble, and Travertine contracts. The bidding process of these projects is underway, and done in coordination with the National Procurement Authority (NPA).

This Ministry has also created a clear channel to collect non-tax revenues from its contracts in accordance with the Afghanistan Extractive Industries Transparency (AEITI) standards. This information has been published through its website. The total revenues of the Ministry for the first two quarters of 1397 fiscal year amounted to AFN620,933,602.

To include local communities in mining processes, initial meetings have been carried out with the relevant communities and the mechanism ofr the Citizens' Charter Program for enhancing citizen engagement has been studied. In addition, during the revision of the mines law includes the article related to the allocation of 5% of annual mining revenues for the host province, in order to guarantee more rights for affected communities.

Meanwhile, in order to ensure transparency in extracting mines, the executive office of the program has prepared an action plan which has also been approved by the Ministry leadership. Therefore, this office facilitates Multi- Stakeholder Group (MSG) meetings on a regular basis.

In accordance with the Article 15 of the Access to Information Act, the activities of the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, publishes information about all conferences, procedures, reports of mining activities both from the center and the provinces, responses to complaints, reports of meetings of the High Economic Council and bid announcements online and social media. Meanwhile, a new unit with complaint management and access to information management services is included in the new MoMP organizational structure. Although its staff has not been hired since its inception, its responsibility is currently being carried out by two employees from the Public Awareness Unit.

The initial assessments of the vulnerability to corruption on MOMP have been completed by MEC which will offer opportunity for better understanding regarding the state of corruption and potential recommendations for the improvement.

B. Regulation Reforms/ punishment of perpetrators

An obligatory clause in contracts has been added regarding negotiation and consultation with local communities by companies that sign new contracts. This will make local communities aware of their rights when implementing mining projects. Meanwhile, in the Mining Law, discussions and consultations with local communities in the field are planned and considered to reduce existing challenges.

In order to identify the beneficiaries of a contract and to create transparency in the award of contracts, the process of identification and awarding has begun. Up to now

ownership of 21 companies have been registered and published online.

An initial draft of the Mining Law has been prepared and submitted to the Office of the President for their review and guidance. Enforcement of the mining law in the extraction industry will enhance the transparency of the ministry's contracts.

C. Promoting the use of IT to optimize transparency and to accelerate administrative processes

To ensure transparency in contract management, MOMP has prepared a digital registration and licensing of mining system that is undergoing pilot testing. So far, there have been about 900 ministry contracts that are included in the system.

D. Difficulties and Challenges of Implementing the Action Plan

One of the challenges that the MoMP has reported is the delay in the amendment and enactment of the mining law.

Ministry of Transport

A. Transparency and access to information

Conducting a press conference by Mr. Hameed Tahmasi, the Minister of Transport, at the Government Media and Information Center on 31 March 2018 provided detailed information in connection with the introduction of 64 accused employees of the Ministry to judicial authorities in the fight against corruption.

In order to increase transparency in the process of signing procurement contracts, standardized forms of National Procurement Authority (NPA) have been used in the distribution, bidding, and evaluation process, as well as the announcement of a bidding process for projects, public awareness (such as declaring the winner of the contract) in both print and online outlets.

B. Regulation Reforms/ punishment of perpetrators

In connection with improving the level of coordination and cooperation among relevant Anti-corruption institutions, the following cases of abuse of power were introduced to Attorney General office (AGO):

- 137 accused employees from theNational Bus Enterprise
- 3 accused employees from the provincial Directorate of Transport in Ghazni province
- 5 accused employees from the Provincial Coordination Directorate.
- In connection with the fight against usurpation and the misuse of the Ministry's property through legal channels, the following cases have been referred to the Attorney General Office (AGO) and Ministry of Justice (MOJ):
- The referring of a case under renting five Pump Station for National Bus Enterprise to MOJ.
- The prosecution of a case under renting two shops for Pump Station for National Bus Enterprise
- The prosecution of usurpation and the abuse of property of Kamaz and the recovery of the usurped estates.
- C. Promoting the use of IT to optimize transparency and to accelerate administrative processes

In order to increase transparency and accountability in the revenue collection system through electronic means and preventing the exchange of physical money in collecting revenues, the relevant proposal and TOR have been provided for the announcement. Proposals for Electronic Toll Collection Procurement (ETTC) and the electronic collection system mechanism sent to Ministry of Finance (MOF) for funding from the Asian Development Bank.

In order to facilitate access to information, Ministry staff database registry has been completed, based on that 2625 staffs are registered, of which 1070 staff members are currently working there and the rest are the retired members and the ones who were previously in the Ministry.

D. Difficulties and Challenges of Implementing the Action Plan

The Ministry of Transport has not reported of any problems or challenges facing the implementation of its activities.

Ministry of Energy and Water

A. Transparency and access to information

Up to 79 senior officials have disclosed their assets, which are submitted to the Administrative Office of the President. In addition, the information unit has been established and an Information Officer is on board in order to strengthen the culture of transparency, accountability, and information sharing between citizens and the administration.

B. Regulation Reforms/ punishment of perpetrators

In order to strengthen the water-based monitoring of the provision water rights, a total of 13 working groups were sent to resolve water disputes and oversee the activities of the associations to the water areas of the country.

In order to regulate the energy market and to ease the private sector's role the regulations and procedures have been finalized and their draft documents have been shared with the Economic High Council for review.

The initial draft of the two guidelines 1. Standardization of the submission process of the completed projects, 2. Strengthening supervision of the implementation of small projects and consolidation of the coastal areas has been prepared.

C. Promoting the use of IT to optimize transparency and to accelerate administrative processes

To ensure transparency the electroni**c** evaluating system of central operate is completed, which provides availability of information of the exiting property over all. The Management Information System (MIS) has been established in order to ensure the better management of the projects.

D. Difficulties and Challenges of Implementing the Action Plan

The problems and challenges of the MoEW in implementation of the action plan of the Ministry in the first 6 months of the 1397 fiscal year includes: a. the security problems in implementation and supervision of some of the projects, specifically those under implementation in insecure areas, b. land acquisition problems in implementation of the projects, c. time-consuming of legal processes of the laws and regulations, d. seizure of the water resources by the influential people, e. shortage of water resource due to climate changes in the region, and f. increase of the water conflicts and less cooperation of the involved departments with MoEW.

Ministry of Communication and Information Technology

A. Transparency and access to information

Asset disclosure of the 97 senior officials has been completed and submitted to the Administrative Office of the President (AOP).

The information Unit has been established and Information Officer is on board in order to strengthen the culture of transparency, accountability and information sharing between the citizens and the administration.

Provision and technical support of Electronic National Identity Cards (E-Tazkira), where the development of the system, the purchase of the equipment and the activities have been completed in a normal manner. Since this system will be used in the "Population Registration Office", it is expected that the staff will be recruited in August. In order to increase public access to information, a government information portal has been created and its demo version is available and in near future can be accessed at: www.Afghanistan.gov.af.

B. Regulation Reforms/ punishment of perpetrators

Regarding cybercrime law and e-governance law, the draft documents are being prepared and sent to MoJ once they are approved by the MoCIT leadership. The deadline for the completion of this activity is the end of 1937 fiscal year.

C. Promoting the use of IT to optimize transparency and to accelerate administrative processes

The electronic passport system is installed at the Central Passport office and is used to issue more than 4,500 passports a day. This system is only used by the staff of the Passport Department and this activity has increased the speed, capacity, and transparency of the passport process. In addition, the online passport system will be opened in a way that citizens can use online forms for obtaining passports.

In order to establish a central traffic system, there is good cooperation and coordination of the traffic department, Ministry of Interior (MOIA) and the Kabul Municipality with the Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies. The center is built for the system installation, data collection and analysis, a demo-system of which is already in use.

On the Implementation of Government Resource Planning (GRP), the goal is to provide speed, transparency and ease of administrative processes and provide public services among national entities such as the Supreme Court, National Insurance, Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC), Ministries of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD), Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), and Ministry of Women affairs (MoWA). Bilateral agreements have been concluded to establish and install this system. Currently, GRP is being implemented within MOCIT and it is expected to cover other ministries in the next few quarters.

One Stop Shop system and Labour Market Information System (LMIS) have been created that increases the transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of recruitment and job search. To achieve this objective, particular addresses have been created for each government institution to post their job announcements. Currently, the system has been considered as one of the best reference agencies for the government.

D. **Difficulties and Challenges of Implementing the Action Plan** One of the major challenges of the MOICT is the delay in adaption process of the egovernance law and cybercrimes law due to the lack of availability of experts in this field.

Ministry of Industry and Commerce

A. Transparency and access to information

The information office has been established in the ministry in order to respond the queries made by the applicants.

Establish Complaint Box at the General Directorate of Central Registry and Intellectual Property of the Ministry.

B. Regulation Reforms/punishment of perpetrators

In the implementation of the commitments of Afghanistan towards the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Business Facility Agreement has been approved by the High Economic Council. Inter-ministerial meetings have been held at the technical and highest levels in this ministry, additionally 9 documents have been sent to the WTO in order to alert the changes in the laws, regulations, and obligations of the Afghan government.

The initial draft of the two laws (anti-dumping law and subsidy) of WTO has been sent to the Ministry of Justice to proceed with their legislature procedures. In addition, the new registration procedure is finalized and is being implemented.

Industrial parks policy has been drafted and sent to 6th session of the High Economic Council for assignment. In addition, the initial draft of the Procedure for distributing land for industrial parks has also been drafted. Moreover, 8 projects including the financial plan and documentation of 4 projects were finalized and approved.

C. Promoting the use of IT to optimize transparency and accelerate administrative processes

D. Difficulties and Challenges of Implementing the Action Plan

Major problems and challenges related to the planned activities of the MoIC includes; a. possibility of non-approval of the industrial parks policy by the High Economic Council, b. failure to follow up and execute company payments according to the terms of contract and lack of awareness of the implementation of construction projects, c. lack of cooperation in the field of enhancing procurement and slow progress of the procurement procedures by the relevant departments outside the ministry, d. lack of professional development of the auditors, e. less attention of the IARCSC on the implementation of professional training programs for internal audit offices, f. factors related to the recruitment of professional cadres that slow down the process of fulfilling obligations, g. arrangement and legislative procedures of the documents are very time-consuming and, h. lack of cooperation and coordination between the ministries and administrations.

B: Ministries with expenditure

Ministry of Public Health

A. Transparency and access to information

The Afghanistan High Medical Council has been established and started to work to strengthen and increase accountability and transparency in the field of health services. The registration process for medical doctors was also launched.

The Client Complaints Center has been established at the Ministry of Public Health Center

for the strengthening of relationships between healthcare providers and outpatient services. 34 focal points in provinces and 21 personnel in Kabul hospitals have been trained to register client complaints. During the last quarter, 75 complaints were filed and 93% of these complaints were addressed.

In order to introduce a National Strategy for Combatting Corruption in the health sector an awareness campaign was launched, which included holding workshops in 30 provincial health departments for 181 provincial health officials.

Regarding regular sessions of health councils to improve the monitoring of people from health centers and engage people in decision making process, the health councils held their monthly meetings to improve the quality (PDQ) in Kabul and some districts of Herat, Balkh, Kandahar and Nangarhar provinces to improve the quality of reproductive health services, children and adolescents through health councils.

More than 800 cases of illegal medical and surgical importers have been resolved by cancelation of their import licenses.

According to the planned activity of the Ministry for quality test of the pharmaceutical samples from among 18,000 samples, 5200 pharmaceutical samples have passed the quality test.

B. Regulation Reforms/ punishment of perpetrators

In connection with ensuring the compliance of the staff of the Ministry of Public Health in the center and provinces, including health centers, 272 staff of the Ministry of Public Health have studied and signed the Code of Conduct. This activity started in the second quarter and the plan for the 2018 fiscal year is 14382 including MOPH civil servants. Meanwhile, 145 enterprises (such as large drugstores, pharmacies and chemists) have been prosecuted for various offences.

C. Promoting the use of IT to optimize transparency and to accelerate administrative processes

The establishment of a database system for the registration of the country through the electronic system in the second quarter has begun.

D. Difficulties and Challenges of Implementing the Action Plan

Major problems and challenges that MoPH is confronting in implementing its action plan are: a. weak cooperation of the relevant agencies in the process of signing the Code of Conduct for Civil Servants b. lengthy recruitment process and failure to hold the civil servants exam, and c. health councils need to be educated, informed and guided in the implementation of their TOR that also includes anti-corruption activities.

Ministry of Education

A. Transparency and access to information

In order to increase transparency and accountability, the financial system at the center and provincial levels has been linked with the establishment of technical systems and facilities. Therefore, exchange of financial documents and e-filings between the center and the provinces has been improved.

152 (out of 200) assets registration forms of the MoE have been completed and submitted to the Administrative Office of the President (AOP).

B. Regulation Reforms/ punishment of perpetrators

No activities in this section

C. Promoting the use of IT to optimize transparency and to accelerate administrative processes

In order to increase transparency in recruitment, 13,500 teachers positions have been registered and all applicants have been given online access to their information and progress. In other words, candidates can get acquainted to vacant positions at the district level and register in an electronic system provided by the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IACSC). In addition, the exam papers are reviewed and evaluated by Entry system software used in MoHE and candidates can access them online.

In order to improve the internal audit mechanism at the central and provincial level, data collection is being carried out as a continuous work procedure in the database system, starting from the beginning of 2018 fiscal year until the end of the second quarter and currently, 108 specific reports and 9 plans are recorded in the database.

D. Difficulties and Challenges of Implementing the Action Plan

The major problems and challenges that MoE was confronting in previous six months of the 1397 fiscal year are: a. poor understanding of staffs from the National Strategy and the action plans, specific in provinces, b. low capacity of staffs of the Ministry, and c. poor coordination between the directorates of MoE and late transmission of the reports.

Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled

A. Transparency and access to information

Regarding assets disclosure of the ministry officials, 8 such forms of central presidents and 3 of such forms of the provincial presidents have been completed and submitted to the Administration Office of the President.

B. Regulation Reforms/ punishment of perpetrators

In order to propose amendments to the rules and regulations and to simplify the procedures in the service sectors and propose reforms to the authorities, a. MoLSAMD's regulation procedures and activities has been sent to MoJ, and b. The process of the regulation of women's rights and privileges in the field of work and workplace has begun. Fifteen accused corruption cases have been investigated and six cases of the total number have been finalized with the rest is still under investigation.

have been finalized, with the rest is still under investigation. Hence, three cases have been referred to the Attorney General Office (AGO) and a case has been referred to the investigation authorities.

C. Promoting the use of IT to optimize transparency and to accelerate administrative processes

Several reforms were introduced in the pension department. These reforms include a planned implementation of the biometric system in six zones of the country. The biometric system is being implemented in 4 zones - Kandahar, Herat, Balkh, and Nangarhar - already and will be implemented in other two zones as well. The biometric recording of the provinces including the capital are as followed; Balkh (civilian: 2,134, military: 1,096), Herat (civilian: 1,280, military: 700), Nangarhar (civilian: 759, military: 609), Kandahar (civilian: 200, military: 25), Kabul(civilian: 1094, military: 3444) and in this context, there are transparency in payments through the usage of the PMIS system.

Reforms have also taken place in the martyrs' and disabilities sector which include;

- The new software system and biometrics have been installed, assembled and put into operation at the deputy minister of martyrs and disabled;
 - The deputy office of martyrs and disabled staff are given regular trainings on the implementation of the biometric system on a daily basis, which causes the staff members to get involved in the implementation of the system;
 - The central audit commission is appointed in accordance to a Presidential Decree – to identify the heirs of martyrs, missing individuals. In addition, the process of verification of the documents has started in all provinces with the exception of the Faryab province.
 - Several reforms have been introduce in order to facilitate the biometric process of the heirs of martyrs and missing individual, that one of them is the 'One Stop Shop' service delivery for the applicants, which reduced many challenges facing applicants.
 - The process of biometric registering of the heirs of martyrs and the missing individuals has been started and according to the MIS office the documents of 2870 martyrs and 8894 documents of the heirs of the martyrs and missing individuals are already entered in the system.
 - A total of 2470 new cards are issued through the new software system, in the area of spreading the new software system in deputy minister of martyrs and disabled actions have been taken on hand, also in the second quarter of the 1397 fiscal year the mentioned system has practically been started.
 - The transformation of the deputy minister of martyrs and disabled in to an independent office and revision of its name to Supporting Authority for

Disabled and Martyrs Families.

The draft of mechanism of payment rights of the disabled and the heirs of the martyrs is forwarded to MoJ. The Initial organizational structure of the Supportive Authority for Disabled and Martyrs Families is finalized and is sent to the IARCSC.

D. Difficulties and Challenges of Implementing the Action Plan

This ministry has not reported of any challenges in implementation of their anti-corruption action plan.

Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development

A. Transparency and access to information

The information Unit has been established and the Information Officer is on board in order to strengthen the culture of transparency, accountability and information sharing between citizens and the administration.

140 out of 143 assets declaration forms of the ministry officials are completed and submitted to the Administrative Office of the President (AOP).

B. Regulation Reforms/ punishment of perpetrators

A total of 13 cases were heard from the Attorney General's Office (AGO) for investigation, which resulted in the reassurance of follow-up and finalization by MRRD leadership.

C. Promoting the use of IT to optimize transparency and to accelerate administrative processes

The Task Management System (TMS) is established to provide timely performance management in both central and provincial departments, and is currently in the pilot phase.

Establishment of a Procurement system is completed to provide access to information. digitalization of bid openings is also under process which scanned document will be stored for archiving and dissemination of information purposes.

D. Difficulties and Challenges of Implementing the Action Plan

The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development did not mention any problems or challenges in the implementation of its activities.

Implementation of Special Decisions of the High Council for the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption, and H.E the President

In addition to implementing related issues of the national strategy, the special secretariat has taken on 4 other tasks that are as followed:

1) Implementing Afghanistan's self-assessment in reporting on the implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption:

According to the Decree No. 12, issued on 3 January 2018 and Decree No. 3272, issued on 11 February 2018, the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat was required to conduct the second round of self-assessment on of implementation of Anti-Corruption Convention. In the aforementioned order, a technical committee consisting of ten ministries and governmental administrates were expected to cooperate by presenting their own expert opinions during the development of self-assessment's draft. To this end, meetings were held with the technical committee on the drafting of the self-assessment's report. It is planned to submit the self-assessment report to the Anti-Corruption Secretariat of the United Nation in late August following the approval of the High-Counsel for Rule of Law and Combating Corruption.

2) UNAMA's annual report in the line of the combating corruption:

In accordance with the decision No. 14, issued on 21 February 2018 of the High-Council for the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption, the Special Secretariat was appointed as the representative and coordinator of the government of Afghanistan to facilitate and cooperate with UNAMA in order to report to that Office. The special secretariat sent forwarded the comments on the primary list of issues of the report – received from the government institutions – along with the comments from the secretariat on the final versions of the report on a regular basis and in accordance with the limitation of time specified by the UNAMA Office. The UNAMA report was released on 5 May 2018 and reported on the progress and challenges faced by the Afghan government in its fight against corruption.

- **3)** Participation in integrity and combating corruption conference conducted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): The Special Secretariat was part of the delegation team under the chairmanship of the H.E second Vice President Sarwar Danish at the conference which was held on the 27-28May 2018 in Paris. In addition to the lectures and the presentation of the message of the Afghan government at this summit, bilateral meetings were held with various officials, including Angela Guria, Secretary General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which led to the organization's preparations for building a lasting relationship with Afghanistan, including participation in three anti-corruption initiatives.
- 4) Drafting the mechanism for the joint committee of the government and civil society to oversee the implementation of the national strategy within the framework of Afghanistan's Open Government partnership's Action Plan:

The Open Government Partnership of Afghanistan (OGPA) has requested the Special Secretariat take on the task that was handed over to the High Office of Oversight on leading and establishing a joint committee of government and civil society for overseeing the implementation of the national strategy. The Special Secretariat drafted a mechanism and shared it with the institutions that have the membership of Open Government Partnership of Afghanistan, which after discussion and changes, was enacted into law on 17 April 2018. Now the enacted draft has been sent to H.E the President through a note and the result will be revealed soon.

5) Sharing Media Research Reports with the High-Council for the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption:

In accordance with the decision number (14), issued on 21 February 2018 of the High-Council for the Rule of law and Anti-corruption; the Special secretariat was appointed to address the investigative journalism's reports to the High-Council for the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption, in coordination with the media for reflecting its findings and taking needed measures. To achieve this goal, the Special Secretariat drafted a scheme which will soon be shared with the investigative media.

6) Publication of action plans:

Decision number (30) dated 14 May 2018 of the High-Council for the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption requested the special secretariat to publish 15 action plans of the priority ministries which are the last step of their enactment and after approval in principle by the mentioned council. These action plans are available <u>online</u>.

7) Revision of the national strategy for combating against corruption:

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Finance and Banking Advisor based on the High-Council for the Rule of Law and Anti- corruption's decision for the revision of the National Strategy for Combating Corruption, on the 5th August 2018. In the mentioned meeting the revision of the anti-corruption strategy was taken in to consideration. The key points at which the meeting was discussed included: number of benchmarks, set out the anti-corruption strategy, what has been implemented, and if not, if the deadlines needed to be changed. In addition, a discussion was held on the new benchmarks that are planned to be incorporated into the strategy.

Activities and performance of the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat

A. Organizational structure

The Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat has been set up in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation, and up to end of the first six months of 1397 fiscal year, it has been able to recruit most of its specialized staff and carry out its work.

B. Development, capacity building and immediate results

Based on the action plan, to coordinate and exchange experiences on the effective implementation of the National Strategy for Combating Corruption, the Special Secretariat has developed three guidelines, and two planning and reporting formats. The secretariat has held four capacity-building workshops for 60 authorized delegates of 57 ministries/departments within two working days. As a result, out of 57 anti-corruption action plans, 57 ministries/departments are were submitted to the special secretariat for review, of which 53 anti-corruption action plans are being finalized.

C: Reporting

The Special Secretariat has so far been able to report on two special reports, a first quarter report of fiscal year 1397, and a special report on the implementation of the National Strategy for Combating Corruption for the Joint Monitoring and Coordination Board (JCMB) and the High Council for Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption.



Figure 12: Major achievements of the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat in the first six month of fiscal year 2018

Appendixes

Appendix A: Progress on the benchmarks of the National Strategy for Combating Corruption in the first six months of fiscal year 1397

According to ministry/departments' reports in the last six months, as shown in the chart below, 65.7% (25 benchmarks) of the anti-corruption strategy are fully completed, 18.4% (7 benchmarks) of it are in the final stages of implementation, which is will be completed soon. 10.5% (4 benchmarks) of it has been half completed, with no progress on 5.2% (2 benchmarks).



Figure 13: The improvement state of benchmarks based on the National Strategy for Combating Corruption

The improvement state of benchmarks based on the five pillars of the National Strategy for Combating Corruption is presented in the following table:

- The first pillar has 7 benchmarks, which all of them are fully completed
- The second pillar has 9 benchmarks, which 5 benchmarks are fully completed, 2 benchmarks are completed 75% and are in the final stages, and in 2 remained benchmarks there has been no improvements.
- The third pillar has 4 benchmarks, which 3 benchmarks are fully completed and 1 benchmark is half completed.
- The fourth pillar has 9 benchmarks, which 6 benchmarks are fully completed, 1 benchmark is completed 75% and is in the final stages, and 2 other benchmarks are half completed.
- The fifth pillar has 9 benchmarks, which 4 benchmarks are fully completed, 4 benchmarks are completed 75% and are in the final stages, and 1 benchmark has been half completed.

Pillars	Amount of Pillars	Completed (100%)	Final stages (75%)	Half Completed (50%)	No progress (0%)	Remarks
First Pillar	7	7				
Second Pillar	9	5	2		2	
Third Pillar	4	3		1		
Fourth Pillar	9	6	1	2		
Fifth Pillar	9	4	4	1		
Total	38	25	7	4	2	

Table of progress on benchmarks

Pillar 1: Political Leadership and Empowered Reformers

Benchmark	Implementer	Deadline	Status
	Administrative Office of the President	February 2018	100%

1.

Enforce full 100% compliance with asset disclosure requirements for senior officials. Legislative Decree No. 154 dated September 5, 2017 approved the Law on Declaration and Registration of Assets of the Government Officials and Employees. It expands the coverage of focused categories, helps with the legal investigation of offenders, and allows illegally obtained property to be identified. A new department is established under the Administrative Office of the President; it has prepared the operational plan for 2018 and recruited employees based on its organizational structure. In addition to review of asset registration forms and sending of circulars – due to close follow-up – assets of 9,153 officials were registered, which includes all the high-ranking officials under Article 154 of the Constitution, except for the first Vice-President due to a delay in obtaining information from his office.

In addition, the list of 10,500 employees and officials which are in specified categories for asset registration has been shared with

IMPF as a commitment of Afghan Government under the Extended
Credit Facility with IMF.Office of the
President and
CEODecember
2017100%

H.E. President of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan held an annual

2.

National leadership consultation of the President on anticorruption efforts

consultative conference on May 3, 2018 through a videoconference with governors, provincial heads of the Ulema Council and university presidents. At the conference, government leadership officials included the second Vice President, Attorney General, Head of Ulema Council, Head of IDLG, Minister of Higher Education, President's Senior Advisors, the head of Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat, and other officials. Two main topics were discussed: (1) Issues and challenges to combat corruption and ways to solve the problem, and (2) Challenges and difficulties in the process of voter registration and ways to solve the problem. It should be noted that before the annual consultation conference, provincial governors and university heads shared their views in consultation with their provincial colleagues by preparing two sets of reports in a unified form. In addition, the National Anti-Corruption Symposium, which discussed at the 10th session of the High Council on Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption dated August 28, 2017, is part of the planned activities for the coming months.

3.

Empowering Laws: (1) Enact a Whistle-blower Protection Law, (2) Amend the access to information law to meet international best practices and strengthen the recently established



and Anti-Corruption submitted the draft Whistleblower's Protection Law after its final review to the cabinet meeting on 12/6/1397, and obtained its enactment. (2) Amendments of Access to Information Law was approved, and enforced by the

Oversight Commission on Access to Information; (3) Revise civil and criminal codes to seize illegally obtained assets and exclude those convicted of corruption from political office

decree number 256 on March 3, 2018. The Commission for the Compliance for Access to Information Law, however, is not yet established. (3) The new Penal Code, which was adopted in March 19, 2018, forecasts the supplementary sanctions in cases of corruption committed by civil servants and elected officials who will be prohibited from working in civil services and/or running for an elected office. The Penal Code has also forecasted the seizure and confiscation of illegally obtained properties. These provisions have been included in section 4 of the Penal Code published in Official Gazette N° 1260 on May 15, 2017. Civil service law has also been amended. In this law, performance appraisal and disciplinary measures are predicted. Accordingly, civil servants who are convicted of corruption offenses with an imprisonment term of one year or banned from the exercise of his/her profession, and will be prohibited from being appointment as a civil servant for five years. If a civil servant is convicted of corruption and sentenced to over one year of imprisonment, he/she will be permanently prohibited from working for the government in the future.



4.

Introduce an awards program for civil servant individual and team achievements in fighting corruption

Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC) announced the program on introduction of well performing civil servants officially on May 1, 2018. The program praises the dedication, integrity and efficiency of employees over the past year. Any achievement made by a staff member will be examined by a special committee, which is also comprised of civil society members. The program is scheduled to take place in the second quarter of fiscal year 2018. From May 20, 2018 to June 3, 2018, clear and specific criteria for the selection of members of the committee were designed. Following the process, on June 15, 2018, the call for candidate nomination was initiated by sending circulars to ministries and institutions.

5. Establish an independent palace Ombudsmen	Afghan Ombudsma secondary unit of the limited to combat	n Bureau. The he Office of the ing corruption	n May 12, 2018, establishes the combudsman Bureau will be a e President. Its scope of work is n on the basis of complaints he presidential units and high-	
	ranking officials of the government. The main duty of the Ombudsman is to develop and process the Ombudsman Law within the first 3 months.			
6. Pass a consolidated subnational	IDLG	February 2018	100%	
governance policy	The Subnational Governance Roadmap was discussed and approved at the third meeting of the High Council on Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption on May 14, 2018. IDLG has already included the mentioned measure of the road map into its action plan.			
7. Establish Independent Judiciary: (1) Open trials, (2)	Supreme Court and Office of the President	June, 2018	100%	
Community Engagement, (3) Independent Judicial Services Commission	prevent provincial g judiciary in the pro	rder to maintain the independence of the judiciary and to ent provincial governors from interfering in the affairs of the ciary in the provinces, that it is a serious problem, H.E. the ident has banned governors from intervening in the affairs of courts.		
	(1) Public Trials: according to Article 128 of the Constitution on			

65

public trials, the law on the formation and jurisdiction of the judiciary and the law of high Council of the Supreme Court, the meeting of supreme court should be conducted publicly. In addition, since the last six months, there have been 1,492 public judicial hearings in 32 provinces of Afghanistan, 105 of which have been broadcast by the media. Courts – on the basis of constitutional guarantees and standards of fair trials – held public hearings with the judiciary, the key elements of these meetings, i.e. the plaintiff, the defendant, lawyer, prosecutor and other stakeholders. Media and citizens, especially students of law and civil society, have been invited to reflect the flow of meetings and have provided the necessary facilities.

(2) Community Involvement: Open hearings of judicial sessions will ensure the presence and supervision of the public in the process of public trials. According to Supreme Court, an estimated 10,000 people have participated in public hearings and have also been kept aware through local media. In addition, the streaming sessions have been launched through national and local TVs, and citizens in the center and provinces have become aware of the public hearings of the judiciary. The Supreme Court has also provided public oversight through complaints committees. The Supreme Court publications are another means of providing public oversight in the country's judicial system through which people see information about appointments and how they handle their cases. People or lawyers also meet twice a week with Chief Justice and members of the Supreme Court to share their legal problems. According to the Supreme Court's reports, public awareness programs are another indicator of public oversight through which the Supreme Court encourages people to attend public trials.

(3) Independent Judicial Services Commission: The Independent Judicial Services Commission has not been established, however, Supreme Court has established a High Appointment Committee by Order number 50, issued on October 11, 2017. Since beginning of the year, 2018, the Committee has continued to work on the appointments of the senior judiciary under the auspices of three members of the Supreme Court Council, the General Directorate of the Judiciary, and the Director of the Administration to the Supreme Court and the Director General of Human Resources of Supreme Court. And this committee carries out the important tasks of judging the adherence to the principle of professionalism,

	expertise and commitment. By reviewing the judiciary reports, the committee assessed the activity and effectiveness of the judges and, in accordance with their capacity and skills for appointing judges at the primary level, and Court of Appeals, replacing of 223 judges over six months is the result of the committee's achievements.			
	Pillar 2: Reformi	ng the Securit	y Sector	
Benchmark	Implementer	Deadline	Status	
8. Appoint a High Oversight Board to provide guidelines and audits of senior security- related appointments and promotions	security high-ranki	ing officers op liq Sarwari, w	ppointment of the defense and berates under the authority of ho is assigned to serve on the	
9. Prepare guidelines for pilot program on public commentary on	Ministry of Interior Affairs (MoIA)	June 2018	0%	
senior appointments	Ministry of Interior	Affairs had no	progress on this activity	
10. Transfer Afghan National Civil Order Police (ANCOP) and the border guards from	Ministry of Defense (MoD)/Ministry of Interior Affairs (MoIA)	June 2018	25%	

Interior to the defense ministry, with all senior commanders to undergo full review	 (1) ANCOP: In accordance to the Presidential Decree number 2099, issued on September 17, 2017, out of 15,599 ANCOP personnel, 13,049 of them were transferred to the Ministry of Defense from MoIA. The remaining 2,550 ANCOP personnel have remained under MoIA. Their organizational structures are based on the separate decree of the H.E. President. (2) Border Police: According to the Presidential Decree number 1499, issued on July 30, 2017, out of 23,322 border forces personnel, 19,322, along with all of their vehicles, equipment, logistical support and supplies were transferred to MoD from MoI. 				
	The remaining 4,000 police officers were assigned to work and stay under MoIA at the borders and airports with a revised structure.				
	(3) On the full review of the performance of senior commanders: MoD and MoIA had no progress until July 4, 2018.				
11. Expand electronic payroll to all	MoIA	June 2018	100%		
accessible districts	As of June 2018, 97.71 % of police salaries are paid directly to individual bank accounts, 0.14% transferred through mobile money systems, and 2.15% are still paid through trusted agents in areas with no bank access.				
12. Defense Planning, Budget and Strategy: (1) publish unconditional	NSC	December 2017	100%		
defense strategy and a detailed defense budget; (2) publish an anticorruption action plan for this	 The national budget, which includes the defense budget, has been published in detail in the 2018 fiscal year. The Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat has received the unconditional defense strategy that the Ministry of Defense has published on its website. 				

sector 2. Ministry of Defense has prepared and published the Anti-			
Sector	2. Ministry of Defense has prepared and published the Anti- Corruption Action Plan.		
13. Complete a security sector fiduciary risk	Ministry of Finance (MoF)/MoIA/MoD	June 2018	0%
assessment	Related ministries did not provide any updates on this activity. Ministry of Finance has not conducted a Fiduciary Risk Assessment of security sector yet.		
	Office of the President	December 2017	100%
14.		. 1 .1	

Include civil society inputs in the development of new governance or anti-corruption legislation and policies The following reports shows the participation and consultation of civil society, especially in the formulation of anti-corruption laws and policies/reports of Integrity Watch Afghanistan, the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, Ministry of Information and Culture, Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Justice to the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat; reports of the Law Committee that are accessible to the public; policy notes of e Integrity Watch Afghanistan and Global Witness which was shared with the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum and the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat. The participation of civil society is particularly appreciated through the Criminal Law Working Group, and for whistleblower protection, access to information, asset registration and publication law, and most recently for legislative drafting and processing law.



1. Establishment of a working anti-corruption committee and identifying ghost soldiers based on decree number 168, issued on November 6, 2017 of Ministry of Defense.

15.

Ghost Soldiers/Police: (1) develop a verification plan detailing personnel and payroll procedures, (2) develop daily attendance sign in procedures using identification numbers, (3) ensure use of fully operational electronic system to track payroll data, (4) training for internal audit and investigative powers

2. The Ministry of Interior has identified 598 ghost policemen in provincial police headquarters of Farah, Badghis, Uruzgan, and Helmand. The Ministry of Interior has completed the process of presence verification and recording of biometrics profiles of 11,2599 police personnel, which makes 95.46% of the Afghan National Police. The ministry has also completed inventory and recording biometric profiles of 27,268 Afghan Local Police which makes 93.37% of total, and 4,272 or 62% of the prison police. As planned, the process is on-going, and the MoIA is committed to completing the process of registering its staff members.

3. The Ministry of Defense has collectively recorded biometric details of 169,997, including 31,951 officers, 58,935 Bridmal, 74,440 soldiers, and 4,646 civil servants, equivalent to military personnel including reserves and the trainees. The rest, which is 12,714 people, still needs to be registered and recorded with their biometric details. In the salaries' payment section, out of 160,439 troops, 141,988 troops are registered in the human resources and payroll salaries system of the Ministry of Defense. 18,451 others have not yet been registered.

4. In the Ministry of Interior Affairs' training programs, the ministry has taken many courses for 111 staff of the Directorate of Audit on use of technical facilities, detection and suppression of terrorist activities, strengthening of coordination, English language, master's program of the Turkish scholarship, training of the personnel of the Criminal Police Officers. The Ministry of Defense also conducted internal audits involving 48,924 Afghan National Army personnel, out of which 283 officers were referred for prosecution to AGO previously and 6 others recently.



1. The existing monitoring mechanism for the confidential procurement has been published. This mechanism includes the following actions:

a. Security Sectors are required to submit quarterly reports on the use of Operational Budget to the National Security Council and they are also assigned to provide quarterly reports on the expense of the budget to the Ministry of Finance.

b. Annual audits of Security Sector institutions, including the confidential procurement, are conducted by the Supreme Audit Office.

c. All Security Sector institutions, including the Office of National Security Advisor will provide Standard Operational Procedures that specify the purpose of using the funds in this area, and the Afghan National Security Council will approve the Standard Operational Procedures.

2. The Supreme Audit Office is currently reviewing the financial statements of the past fiscal year (2017) and the annual financial report for the previous fiscal year (2016) has been published on their website. In addition, the Supreme Audit Office has a legal obligation to report to Parliament in this regard as well.

Pillar 3: Replacing patronage with merit

Benchmark	Implementer	Deadline	Status
17. Revitalization of the civil service training center and curriculum, with at least 5,000	Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC)	December 2018	100%

Oversight on Secret Procurement: (1) publish current oversight mechanisms for confidential procurement, (2) provide detailed audit reports related to defense and security sectors to parliament

16.
inductees taking core courses in public administration and anti-corruption	 The Civil Service Institute and its curriculum are revitalized in order to train 5000 newly recruited employees on public administration, anti-corruption and gender policy courses, and the following immediate results are reported by IARCSC: Education need assessment of 4,000 in newly recruited employees Categorization of 4,000 newly recruited employees of different institutions based on their positions and title Development and designing of 50 rounds of training based on their needs 			
18. Public advertising and competitive selection for all positions	Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC)	December 2017	100%	
	 All civil service posts have been announced in the past nine months through competitive recruitment. Details of announcement, candidates list, and recruitment results are all included in the first Special Report of the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat. Hiring in this method include all of the commercial attaché posts, 697 procurement posts, 9,000 civil servants (ranks 5 and 6), 			
	 8,000 teacher posts and 700 teacher trainer posts. In fiscal year 1396, 697 procurement posts from all of the government ministries and authorities were publicly announced, and after receiving 40,000 applications, 8,000 applicants were qualified for the collective exams stage. After the review of their documents, 673 applicants passed the collective exams during the first quarter and the remaining positions were filled during the second quarter with the same process. Moreover, 9,000 civil service posts (ranks 5 and 6), 8,000 			
	teacher post,s and 700 teacher's trainer positions have been announced publicly. In accordance with the anti-corruption action plan of IARCSC, the exams took place in 33 provinces while the exam in Kabul was held in the third quarter.			

• 19 commercial attaché posts have also been announced publicly in the 1st quarter of this fiscal year. From 972 applications, 117 applicants have been shortlisted for the interviews and finally 19 people were selected for the posts.



membership of the	
Stage committee to	
include vetted and	1. Expanding the membership of the Judicial {Setazh-e-Qazaye}
independent	Steering Committee by including representatives from three
representatives	branches of power and relevant civil society organizations,
from the	including academics and foreign experts, in accordance with the
Legislative,	Setazh-e Qazaye regulation. The committee should be established
Judiciary, Executive	in accordance with Article 13 of the Setazh-e-Qazaye regulation,
and relevant Civil	prior to the beginning of the next or the thirty-first round of the
Society	judicial forum (Setazh-e-Qazaye) course. It is worth noting that
organizations,	the Supreme Court will assess the need to hold this round of the
including members	course this year, and if so, the committee will eventually be
of academia and	expanded accordingly.
foreign experts, (2)	
restrict	2. Four judges were previously recruited in the judiciary in
appointments	violation of the Law on the Structure and Duties of the Judiciary.
outside of the Stage	Their removal has been approved by His Excellency, the President
process and ensure	of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and is currently under
a transparent and	review.
competitive	
process	

Pillar 4: Prosecuting the Corrupt						
Benchmark	Implementer	Deadline	Status			
21. Strengthen anti- corruption laws and regulations	Gazette: 1. Administrative La 2. Amendment of th	aw e Civil Servant Declaration a	nd Registration of Assets of			

4. Penal Code

5. Amendment of the law on the Formation and Jurisdiction of the Attorney General

6. Access to Information Law

7. The Law of Bankruptcy

8. The Law of Limited Liability Companies

The Whistleblowers Protection Law was approved by the Cabinet on 03/09/2018, and the draft Anti-corruption law was also discussed at the cabinet meeting on 05/09/2018, and because of the existence of some gaps and deficiencies in it, it was decided that it should be amended by the Ministry of Justice, under the supervision of His Excellency the Second Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, in the light of the Cabinet's corrective comments.



and evaluation committee (MEC) under the office of the Attorney General The integration of all anti-corruption bodies under the leadership of Attorney General is finalized after amendment of the law on the structure and jurisdiction of the Attorney General's Office, which indicates the abolishment of High Office of Oversight. The decree No. 6, issued on May 15, 2017, moves all assets, budget and structure of the High Office of Oversight to the Attorney General's Office.



24.

Reform the offices of Taqnin (Legislative Drafting), Huquq (Legal Affairs), and Qaza-e Dawlat (Government Cases in the Ministry of Justice Activities carried out in this field in the 1st and 2nd quarters include reviewing the Law on the Procedure of Publication and Enforcement of Legislative Documents in order to facilitate public participation in the legislative process and to maintain transparency and accountability, through Afghanistan Open Government Partnership Forum, which has been submitted to the Cabinet for approval. In addition, according to a report from the Ministry of Justice, in order to provide public access to civil cases, enhancing transparency in the handling process and to expedite the implementation of the court's sentences, and to identify professional and expert staff in the Legal Directorate, the executive procedure for the Legal Directorate employees has been amended and over the past six months, 1,397 civil cases, including property, family, commercial, has been registered in the Civil Cases Management System.

In addition, according to the Ministry of Justice, 94 employees of the Legislation Institute have participated in the Legislative {Setazh-e-Tagnini} training program, organized bv the Department for the Study, Description and Training of Laws, and 23 employees of the Department of Government Cases have been trained on the resolution of legal disputes, rule of law, access to justice, legal and Sharia defense of the public interests and rights. Finally, in order to distinguish the professional staff from nonprofessional personnel and reforming these departments, the professional capacity of 522 staff of the Legal, Government Cases and Legal Aid Departments of the MoJ has been evaluated in 25.

Advance

discussions and

agreements on

extradition, cross-

border crime, and recovery of stolen

assets

cooperation with the Civil Service Commission.

According to the findings of the Anti-Corruption Specialist Secretariat, the implementation of this goal has not yet been completed and its condition is partially completed.



The Afghanistan Attorney General's Office has signed agreements with the governments of Tajikistan and Islamic Republic of Iran to extradited the Afghan prisoners. Through these agreements, 617 people from Iran and 400 people from Tajikistan have been extradited so far. The Attorney General's Office is also signing separate extradition agreements with Russia, Turkey and Pakistan. However, an agreement that is signed with the UAE, has not been implemented yet.

Regarding Transnational Crime, the Directorate of Counter International Crimes has been established in the office of the Deputy Attorney General for Counter Corruption of the Attorney General's Office. This directorate is cooperating with a number of countries in the area of combating drug trafficking, money laundering, and terrorist activities.

Based on the Presidential Decree No. 863, issued on 17/02/2018, the Asset Recovery Directorate has been established within the Attorney General's Office, and has started its activities from 22 May, 2018.



According to reports from the Attorney General's office, they have recruited 200 prosecutors during the past six months, from which about half of them have been deployed to provinces after passing professional training programs. This will increase people's access to justice and prosecution services in the provinces, and will help all provinces to have professional and qualified prosecutors. The Attorney General's Office has been able to dispatch 52 attorneys in 34 districts over the past six months, of which 10 or 19% of the total number of them are female.



27.

Access to Justice: (1) improve citizen's access to justice across the country, (2) strengthen case management systems in courts, including implementing safe archiving, (3) strengthening coordination within the judiciary and law enforcement organs

1. Providing legal assistance (provision of defendants) to 8,600 poor suspects; conducting face-to-face meeting with people; setting up 34 provincial offices dedicated to violence against women and children, sending prosecutors to districts, and creating an information committee to improve access to justice throughout the country.

2. Ensuring the security of the case management system, this is promoted and led by the Justice Sector Support Program (JSSP), and to ensure the security of the documents through the construction of 12 standardized electronic archives. It is worth mentioning that the Case Management System has been established and are active in 24 provinces, which are updated in a daily basis.

3. Holding coordination meetings in Kabul under the chairmanship of H.E. the Second Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Kabul and under the chairmanship of heads of Appeals Court in the provinces in order to strengthen understanding and cooperation between crime detection, investigation and prosecution bodies and the resolution of problems and challenges. Recently, under the guidance of His Excellency the President, the procedure for conducting coordination meetings between the legal and judicial organs has prepared by the Supreme Court and is scheduled to be approved

at the first meeting of the Supreme Court's High Council.

28.

Open trials: (1) ensure all trials are open to the public in accordance with the law, (2) issue and enforce clear directives requiring open trials, (3) encourage community monitoring, and ensure court verdicts are made public at the local level

Supreme Court

December 2018

1. Since last year, there have been 5,974 open judicial hearings in 32 provinces of Afghanistan, of which 1,493 of them were held in the first and second quarters of the 2018 fiscal year. 105 hearings have been held at the presence of media representatives.

100%

2. Courts have always been instructed by the Supreme Court's High Council to invite the public to participate in the courts' open trials.

3. The trial proceedings are made public through the local media in order to obtain people's trust to judiciary. Moreover, it has been planned to publish the court proceedings on Supreme Court website and in Mizan magazine, in accordance to the judiciary branch's action plan. Also, according to the judiciary's anticorruption action plan, examples of final court judgments/sentences will be published in a magazine.

29.

Create a channel for citizens to report corrupt officials without fear of reprisals: (1) monitor complaints through a public channel and ensure that those who report corruption can see the progress of their case, and receive feedback. (2) an audits of complaints system



1. The High Council of the Supreme Court has approved the guidelines on establishment of a Special Electronic Complaints Registry Office within the Judicial Control Office, on February 20, 2018. According to these guidelines, the identity of the citizens reporting corruption cases will be kept confidential.

2. The Supreme Court has not reported on facilitating public audit of the complaints system until July 2, 2018.

3. The Supreme Court has not reported about establishing of

should be	complaints management system until July 2, 2018.						
publically							
available, (3)	4. The audit authority is established in the Office of Chief of Staff for the President in order to address complaints of corruption against high ranking public officials.						
establish an							
ombudsman							
system (An							
effective							
complaints							
management							
system would need							
an ombudsman to							
ensure that the							
process was							
secure,							
transparent, and							
effective)							
Pillar 5: Follow the Money							
Benchmark	Implementer	Deadline	Status				
	Ministry of Finance (MoF)	February 2018	100%				

30.

Propose an accounting law that would set national standards for all public agencies and license auditors and accounting firms Based on Legislative Decree No.251, issued on March 4, 2017, Afghanistan's Professional Accounting Law is valid, and following its enactment procedure, the National Assembly, the mixed commission of the Meshrano Jirga and Wolesi Jirga is working on its adoption. According to the above mentioned Law, the Ministry of Finance has prepared its 5 year plan and conducted its activities to implement it.

In addition, on 2 May 2018, the Afghanistan Professional Accounting Office (APAO) has started the registration process of individual's professional accountants and audit companies. With the completion of this process, the Department of Quality Assurance and Professional Compliance of APAO will start the initial evaluation phase and the initial examination of the companies that will result in issuing a license to companies that

complete the licensing requirements in accordance with the law.

Afghanistan Professional Accounting Office receives technical assistance under an agreement signed with Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) headquartered in London, UK.



Full implementation of the Financial Performance Improvement Program In 2016, the five-year Fiscal Performance Improvement Plan (FPIP) was introduced. Started by the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the National Procurement Authority (NPA), and Supreme Audit Office (SAO) are also implementing the FPIP. The plan is created to bring needed reforms in the public financial management of government entities. The intended budget for this project is \$100 million, which it will support financial reforms in the coming five years.

Furthermore, the aims of the project are to moderate the access of all offices to financial resources and refusal of certain offices in relation to it, for better evaluation, cooperation and investment.

32.

Move the financial crimes task force to the attorney general's office

A committee was formed with the participation of various institutions including the Attorney General and headed by the Ministry of Finance on a specific case, which was handed over by Financial Transactions and Report Analysis Center in 2017. After completion of the review and submission of the report to the H.E President, the committee completed its mission and there was no need to move the office.

100%

December

2017

AGO



35.

Secure the required capacity and resources to build capacities of relevant officials for collecting, publishing, storing, accessing, and sharing contract data and execution of a transparent public procurement system



Besides the monitoring system for contract progress, the NPA in collaboration with IARCSC has hired 692 procurement employees through free competition. A total of 578 of them have learned the basic principles of procurement through the National Procurement Institute's training courses. Collecting, maintaining, accessing, publishing, and sharing information of the contracts is part of a curriculum. The action besides empowering the NPA Institute will encourage the employee's capacity in better and stable implementation of a transparent procurement system.



36.

Implement the Addis Tax Initiative and the Common Reporting Standard, to ensure better tax revenue transparency and accountability.

Afghanistan completed the Addis Ababa's Tax Initiative in 2018, and in line with its orders, and the government has undertaken the following actions between 2017 and 2018: two directors from General Directorate of Revenue participated in Stockholm's Tax Conference and the Addis Ababa's Membership Meeting from 30th to June 1, 2018 in Sweden. The Afghanistan Self-Assessment under the umbrella of the tax office's discovery, which is a preparation for the process, has officially begun.

1. A central management system has been established;

2. The Compliance Plan has been drafted;

3. The General Directorate of Revenue will be ready to receive membership of the Addis Ababa Tax Initiative in 2018.



- The Arusha Declaration was signed by the Minister of Finance on 16/01/2017, according to which the General Directorate of Customs has completed its plan for 2017-2019, part of which is the Anti-Corruption Action Plan of the Ministry of Finance.
- Proposal to increase the structure (Tashkel) of the Internal Compliance Department, formulate and approve a policy for this department;
- Development, reproduction and implementation of the guideline of imported goods;
- Reporting the shortcomings in border control and finalizing the four-year plan for modernization;
- Inspection based on customs risks in 10 provinces and 5 central departments;
- The Customs Code of Conduct is developed. In addition, the capacity building and awareness guideline has been finalized.

2. The Afghan Customs Agency has made progress in the implementation of the 2017 and 2018 plans based on the Arusha Revised Declaration, which the reports have been presented accordingly. In addition, in April 2018, the Customs Department of the country in cooperation with the World Customs Organization has developed the revised Arusha Plan in New Delhi, India. One of its objectives is the development of a Strategic Plan. The Anti-Corruption Action Plan as part of the revised Arusha Declaration is a continuing decision in all customs offices.

3. The customs legal department has been able to develop and modify about 60 applicable procedures for publishing rates and procedures through the website of the Ministry of Finance and Civil Services at the Border Customs offices. The National Customs and Tax Academy, in accordance with the development and

37.

Customs Reform and Transparency: (1) reform the customs services in line with principles of the Arusha Declaration of the World Customs Organization (WCO), (2) advertise the rates and procedures at the borders and inland custom depots online or through public service.



and obligations of Afghanistan to the World Trade Organization

- Submission of the Subsidies and Countervailing Measures document
- Submission of the Anti- Dumping Practice document
- Submission of the new and full notification of subsidies document
- Submission of the Reshipment inspection document
- Submission of the Anti- Dumping Legislation document
- Submission of the Revised Export Duties document
- Submission of the TBT Implementation and Administration document
- Submission of the business facilitation memorandum of understanding

The risk assessment procedure, which was the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock's (MAIL) commitment, is being developed and it will be implemented in accordance with the commitments made in early 2020.

Appendix B: Executive summary of ministries/Administration during the first six months of fiscal year 1397

A: Ministries

Ministry of Finance

<u>Major priorities</u>

Major anti-corruption priorities of the Ministry of Finance are including automating of the processes by using information technology systems; amending laws, regulations and rules of procedures; strengthening public awareness on budget expenditure, implementation of laws and regulations and activities of the Ministry; human resources reforms through reforming recruitment processes, public officials' asset registration and strengthening human resources management in the central and provincial levels; strengthening access and simplifying work processes for taxpayers services through the establishment of a tax dispute settlement board in accordance with Article 11 of the Tax Administration Law; and strengthening government officials' capacity on provincial budgeting and standards of Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA).

- Strengthening the automation of processes and the implementation of the electronic systems of the Standard Integrated Government Tax Administration System (SIGTAS), Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA), Afghanistan Financial Management Information System (AFMIS) and Revenue Information System (RMIS);
- A procedure and a financial reporting system have been established for issuing licenses to tax accountants, professional auditors or audit firms, monitoring their activities and regulating their reporting activities. The registration of professional accountants and audit firms have started by the Professional Accounting Office, and up until now, 52 audit, accounting and consulting services companies have been registered. Registration and oversight of the professional performance of auditing and accounting, and will help Afghanistan to accede to the Federation of South Asian Federation of Accountants, International Federation of Accountants and Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants. As a result, it will enhance the credibility of Afghanistan's private sector service delivery in this field regionally and globally;
- For the registration of public properties, the Public Property Database has been created at the General Department of Public Properties, and at present, work on developing forms for registration of contracts and public properties is under way. In addition, the procedures for contracting and registering public properties, real estate agreements, guidelines and code of conduct for bidding

processes related to the General Department of Public Properties have been reviewed in order to better comply with the relevant laws and regulations;

- Follow up of 10 disputed and usurped property cases of the Ministry of Finance and submission of 241 circular letters to government agencies to prevent the usurpation of public properties and to recover usurped properties by General Department of Public Properties. These cases have been prosecuted through formal authorized courts and the disputed and usurped properties have been released and are being exploited by the government. Also, the submitted letters have been followed in provincial level and as a result, the reported cases have been tracked by the responsible authorities in local level;
- Regarding the human resources, the procedures for the reform of human resources in areas of recruitment, privileges and performance appraisals, which have been sent by the Civil Service Commission have been implemented and the human resources activities are being done accordingly;
- In the area of public officials' asset declaration, 1,435 employees of General Department of Customs including 654 central customs officers and 781 provincial customs officers have registered their assets. Moreover, the salary payments of 25 percent of ministry employees are made via banks or mobile systems during the fiscal year 1397;
- All procurement processes, including property contracts are being published through the Ministry of Finance website, where people become aware of public procurement practices and public agencies become aware of the procurement processes of their contracts;
- The Ministry of Finance oversees the quantitative and qualitative progress of development projects and implementation of the national budget by the budgetary units and reports on budget expenditure to the Wolesi Jirga in a quarterly basis and to the general public on a weekly basis;
- The design and development of service centers for large, medium and small taxpayers have been completed and new buildings for establishing these centers at their relevant departments are being built currently. Also, in order to facilitate handling of complaints and resolving of taxpayers disputes, the General Revenue Department has established a procedure for establishing a Tax Dispute Resolution Board in accordance with the Tax Administration Law, which has been approved by the Minister and will begin its work after completion of board members appointments;
- In the area of capacity development, professional audit trainings have been conducted based on the standards of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) for 167 internal auditors of nine ministries/agencies including the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Industries and Commerce, Ministry of Public Work, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Capital Region Independent Development Authority and Civil Aviation Authority. The topics of these training

programs have been including basics of audit, audit standards, financial and accounting audits, risk-based audits, writing audit reports and follow up audit findings and recommendations.

Difficulties and challenges in implementing the action plan

The major problem reported by the Ministry of Finance is Da Afghanistan Bank's system's not readiness to connect with SIGTAS system.

Analysis of performance and achievements

Automating of the processes with the aim of simplifying the processes, strengthening transparency in revenue collection, preventing and eliminating public servants' corruption, facilitating regular and timely registration and reporting of revenue collection and effective oversight of revenue collection has been a major priority under the Ministry of Finance over the first six months of the fiscal year 1397. The Ministry of Finance reports that, the use of the ASYCUDA system in customs will expedite customs clearance procedures and reduce the opportunities for employees and business contacts, which will reduce corruption opportunities as well. Similarly, the use of AFMIS will enhance the accounting system in customs as well as reporting of budget expenditures and accountability of departments in spending operational budgets. Finally, using the Revenue Information System (RMIS) will facilitate the collection, storage, and use of information and revenue collection reporting at revenue collection practices.

According to the Ministry of Finance report, the RMIS has been implemented in the large taxpayers office and is practically used to prevent delays in recording the collected revenues in the system, enhancing transparency in the recording and reporting of revenues and sharing revenues collection related information on a daily basis. In addition to using these systems, the Ministry of Finance reports that over the past six months, scanners were installed for accurate checking and control of shipments at the Hairatan, Balkh, Nimroz, Kunduz, Spin Boldak and Kandahar provincial customs, which will enhance the transparency of revenue collection. In addition, the installation of modules and fiber optics for launching the system in Herat, Nimroz and Kandahar customs brings transparency to the customs tariff, accurate reporting, and control of ports.

The Afghanistan Accountancy Law was reviewed and approved by the Mishrano Jirga in April 2018, and due to disputes between the two houses of the National Assembly, the law was referred to a joint committee composed of representatives of the both houses and approved by the Joint Committee on 8 July 2018, and subsequently was sent to the H.E. President of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for his approval.

The Ministry of Finance has made significant progresses over the past six months in fulfilling their priorities, but has had little progress in reforming the customs, including

amending the Customs Law, and it is necessary to pay more attention in these areas in the other two quarters of the fiscal year 1397.

Ministry of Justice

Major priorities

The major anti-corruption priorities of the Ministry of Justice are include strengthening of laws related to the fight against corruption, strengthening access to justice through the promotion of legal aids, implementation of reforms in the Legislative, Huquq, and Government Cases Departments, enhancing transparency and accountability in the office, facilitating the asset registration of eligible officials and employees, strengthening of the internal audit, improving the organization's accountability against the external audits, assessments and evaluations and cooperation in prosecution of cases and corruption offenders and conducting of an vulnerability to corruption assessment.

- Amending the Access to Information Law based on the international standards and lessons learned from the implementation of access to information laws, in order to strengthen access to information in the country;
- Drafting and finalizing the Anti-Corruption Law and revising the law on the procedures for the publication and enforcement of legislative documents through the Open Government Partnership, which was recently sent to the cabinet for approval;
- Providing legal assistance to 5,293 suspected and accused individuals across the country to improve citizens' access to justice;
- Registering cases in the Civil Cases Management System, review of the enforcement procedure for the employees of the Department of Huquq to facilitate public access to civil cases and maintain transparency and accelerate the process of enforcing civil courts' sentences, and identifying professional staff at the Department of Huquq, and during the past six months, 1,397 civil cases including real estate, family, commercial, etc. cases, have been registered in the Civil Cases Management System;
- Organizing the Legislative {Setazh-e Qazai-e} Training Program by the Department of Study, Description and Training of Laws for 94 employees of the Ministry of Justice and other ministries and government organs and 119 graduates of law and jurisprudence to enhance the capacity of the Legislative Institute;
- Training of 23 employees of Government Cases Department on resolution of legal disputes, rule of law, justice, legal and sharia-based defense of public interests and rights, in order to improve their professional capacity;
- Publishing the organization's strategies, policies and plans, its organizational chart of 1397, annual reports, complete list of central and provincial directors, public announcement of bids and of procurement contracts and activity reports of the Ministry's Officials on the Ministry's website. The Appointment of the head of the media and public relations department as the Information Officer and

publication of details based on the Access to Information Law and to strengthen the dissemination of information about its administration and activities;

- Asset registration of 36 senior officials and employees of financial and logistics departments;
- Conducting audits by the Internal Audit Department according to the annual audit plan and referral of 6 cases to the Attorney General's Office for further investigation. The cases were including 5 cases of Department of Huquq of Kabul province and 1 case related to the service staff of the office;
- Assessing the professional capacity of 522 staff from the Huquq, Government Cases and Legal Aids Departments in partnership with the Civil Service Commission, in order to differentiate the professional staff from the non-professional staff and reform these departments.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

During the past six months, the Ministry of Justice has not reported any particular problem or challenge for the implementation of their Anti-Corruption Action Plan. According to quarterly reports submitted by the Ministry, all the planned activities under the Anti-Corruption Action Plan have been completed.

Analysis of performance and achievements

As acknowledged above, during the past six months, the Ministry of Justice has made progress in reviewing and reforming the laws related to the fight against corruption, extending legal aid to improve citizens' access to justice, reforming the legislative, law (huquq) and government cases departments, and facilitating the asset registration of officials and employees of the office. However, the provision of the Whistleblowers Protection Law and implementing reforms in the legislative, law (huquq) and government cases departments have been delayed despite the expiration of deadlines set for them in the National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

This issue has delayed the implementation of its pertinent goals and indicators of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy. It should be noted that the draft Anti-Corruption Law has not been shared with the Special Secretariat for Combating Corruption as of end of the second quarter.

In addition, the statistics provided by the number of officials and staff of the Ministry that have registered their assets are also very small. It seems asset registration of officials and employees of the Ministry of the registration process is moving forward very slowly.

Ministry of Transport

<u>Major priorities</u>

Enhancing transparency in collecting revenues of the ministry, strengthening ministry's procurement processes, enhancing transparency of financial and logistic affairs, strengthening human resource affairs, strengthening communication and outreach systems, improving urban and provincial transportation affairs, enhancing coordination and collaboration with other ministries and organizations, strengthen legislative documents and legal basis, enhancing transparency and accountability in ministry, facilitating official's asset registration, strengthening internal audit of the ministry and responsiveness of the ministry to external audit are all included ministry of transports major priorities.

- In order to ensure transparency in collection of incomes in all foreign departments of the ministry, The MoT officially ordered all of its foreign departments to refrain issuing travel logs in foreign countries.
- In order to improve transparency and accountability in the revenue collection system and to prevent the physical exchange of money, the ministry has developed the ETTC electronic system and submitted its proposal to Ministry of Finance, while the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has pledged to finance it. In addition, the salary payment system and monthly salaries of the staff of the center and foreign representations are transferred on the basis of their attendance report through the New Kabul Bank accounts.
- A monitoring mobile team has been appointed in transport ports (borders) in order to control and check the travel logs, road passes and cash fine-books.
- The ministry has prepared a plan in the field of reforming the formation of the ministry regarding the principle of expertise and congestion and has sent it to Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission. Additionally, in collaboration with IARCSC and for the better implementation of the CBR program 7 key positions of the ministry has been announced and 2 central and provincial heads are recruited observing principle of merit. The ministry of transport in order to improve the capacity of staff has held courses for 25 staff members (Ajirs), introduced 10 scholarships, and has provided English language courses and law awareness sessions for 100 staff members.
- The Ministry of Transport has introduced 137 staffs of Department of the National Bus Enterprise and 3 staffs of the Ghazni province Transport Administration to the judiciary authorities. In addition, 5 staff members of the Provincial Coordination Directorate of provinces have been referred to attorney general because of wasting the revenues. Moreover, in order to share information about corruption activities with national and international media, a

press conference was held at GMIC dating on 26/03/2018 and introduced 64 of the staff members to judiciary authorities.

• In combating against confiscation and misuse of ministry's properties the cases of ministry's pump stations, rent of 89 shops of the National Bus Enterprise and Kamaz Transportation Enterprises are all under process in Ministry of Justice, therefore some of the Ministry's properties (the exact number is not clear yet) are retained back to the ministry.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The Ministry of Transport has not mentioned any problems or challenges in the implementation of its activities.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The planned activities of the Ministry of Transport are being regularly implemented; one of the significant activities of the ministry is activation of the call number 135 for better assistance and to solve transportation problems of the people, the recruitment plan for these positions has been sent to IARCSC but there are employees currently working in these positions. The documents and evidence of the activities of the Ministry are obtained and reviewed.

Ministry of Industry and Commerce

Major priorities

Providing facilities and services for investors, ensuring transparency in the process of registration and distribution of licenses and simplifying them, carrying out transparency obligations of the WTO by adopting and implementing the rules of the law on the basis of the package of accession, ensuring transparency in the procurement process, enhancing transparency and accountability in administration, providing facilities for the investors and coordinating with judicial authorities in the prosecution of criminal cases and accusations of corruption are included in the major priorities of the MoIC.

- Industrial parks policy has been drafted and sent to the 6th session of the High Economic Council for approval; the initial draft of the Procedure for distributing land for industrial parks has been drafted; 8 projects, including financial plan and documentation of 4 projects were finalized while finalizing the documents of a project approved.
- The complaints box has been established in Central Directorate of Central Registration and Intellectual Property in order to receive complaints of investors.
- The implementation of the development projects contracts conditions in the industrial park of capital and provinces have been monitored and evaluated where four out of eight planned projects are approved by the panel, the document of one of the projects is finalized and the area is already under physical construction.
- The new registration procedure is finalized and is being implemented.
- In the implementation of the commitments of Afghanistan towards the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Business Facility Agreement has been approved by the High Economic Council. Inter-ministerial meetings are held at the technical level and the highest level in this ministry, additionally 9 documents have been sent to the WTO in order to alert the changes in the laws, regulations and obligations of the Afghan government.
- The initial draft of the two laws (anti-dumping and subsidy) of WTO has been sent to the Ministry of Justice to proceed.
- 47 officials and staffs of the Ministry have filled the assets registration forms.
- A high-level reporting mechanism has been established for dealing with commercial complaints and for referring criminal and corruption cases to the Attorney General's Office. The mechanism works in consultation with the senior advisor of the President in Economic Affairs. Its progressions in the 2nd quarter of the 1397 fiscal year are: 1. Referral of complaints of stockholders to Attorney

General's Office and 2. Referral of the accused corrupted cases of Laghman provincial office to the Laghman provincial Attorney General's Office.

• The information office has been established in the ministry in order to respond to the requests of the applicants.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

Major problems and challenges related to the planned activities of the MoIC includes; Possibility of non-approval of the industrial parks policy by the High Economic Council, Failure to follow up and execute company payments according to the terms of contract and as the lack of awareness of the implementation of construction projects, lack of cooperation in the field of enhancing procurement and slow progress of the procurement procedures by the relevant departments outside the ministry, lack of professional development of the auditors, very less attention of the IARCSC on the implementation of professional training programs for internal audit offices, factors related to the recruitment of professional cadres that slow down the process of fulfilling obligations, arrangement and legislative procedures of the documents are very timeconsuming and lack of cooperation and coordination between the ministries and administrations.

Analysis of performance and achievements

During the first six months of the fiscal year 1397, the focus of Ministry of Commerce and Industry focused more on the establishment of the access to information office and the complaints box, which both have been completed, in order to hear problems of the investors and therefore,20 information application forms responded. Additionally, the MoCI focused on assets disclosure, drafting policies and procedures, monitoring the development projects and referral of criminal and corruption cases to the attorney general. The ministry of Commerce and Industry has sent the documents and evidence of their activities to the Special Secretariat.

Ministry of Interior Affairs

<u>Major priorities</u>

The main priorities of the Ministry of Interior are improving human resource systems at all levels, creating efficiency in planning and budget expenditure, improving relationship with external stakeholders, reforming the internal structures of the departments within the ministry considering the principle of effectiveness and efficiency, providing effective and transparent public services, capacity building and implementing the monitoring and evaluation framework and standard procedure at the Ministry level.

Major activities and achievements

- Established a Special Ombudsman Office to address complaints of people and employees in the Ministry of Interior Affairs, where 33 complaints, which were filed by people and employees, were resolved. In addition, 30 complaints received from the 119 Police Information Center have been investigated and are legally proceeded;
- Transferred 13,049 employees of the Afghan National Civil Order Police and 19,322 employees of the Border Police from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Defense.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

Major challenges that the Ministry of Interior Affairs has highlighted in the past six months are the intervention of powerful people in recruiting the police and civil servants, lack of required coordination and cooperation between the civil and monitoring organizations, and absence of the Ministry of Interior's leadership support to implement the Action Plan.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The Ministry of Interior Affairs over the past six months completed major activities in transferring the Afghan National Civil Order Police and the Border Police from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Defense, 30 complaints from the 119 police was resolved. In addition, MoIA did not complete its additional activities that should have been carried out in accordance with the ministry's action plan. Therefore, according to the evolution of the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat, the anti-corruption activities of this ministry during the past six months are not significant. In addition, this ministry has not completed the most important priorities such as: preparing guidelines for the training program on receiving public opinion in relation to Senior Officials recruitment, completion and replication of the ANP and civil servants, a full review on senior commander's' performance, and a valid evolution of management of financial risks within the ministry in accordance to its Anti-Corruption Action Plan. Furthermore, the

Ministry of Interior Affairs did not send enough supporting documents and evidence regarding its activities to the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat.

Ministry of National Defense

Major priorities

Providing transparency in signing contracts, monitoring the awarded contracts and property of the Ministry, enhancing the capacity of employees and internal audit of the ministry, activation of Anti-Corruption Monitoring Committee, implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and report on the progress of anti-corruption activities are the main priorities of the Ministry of National Defense.

Major activities and achievements

- Registration of assets of 887 high-ranking officers and senior officials;
- Received 13,049 vacancies of the Civil Order Police and 19,322 vacancies of the Border Police from the Ministry of Interior Affairs.
- 90% implementation of the electronic salary payment system;
- Completed 93% of employees' biometrics;
- Assessed 10 corruption cases and sent them to the Attorney General's Office;
- Replacement of 1,777 officers through the rotation process.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The major challenges that Ministry of National Defense has highlighted in terms of implementation of the Anti-Corruption action plan are a lack of technical capacity and cooperation from the relevant institutions, the absence of professional and experienced supervision, and modern technology in the structure of the database.

Analysis of performance and achievements

Over the past six months, the Ministry of National Defense completed major activities in transferring the Civil Order Police and the Border Police, completed personnel biometric process, 90% salaries were paid through an electronic system and handled 10 corruption cases. The Ministry of National Defense is one of the significant pillars of the security sector and one of the key ministries in the National Anti-Corruption Strategy. Considering the current situation in the country, bringing reforms in the security sector are crucial and fundamental, but these reforms are also time-consuming. A small mistake in this area will have harmful and dangerous consequences. Therefore, we must take gradual decisions with a full knowledge in this regard. Considering the priorities of this ministry and evaluation of the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat, the Ministry of National Defense should have completed its important activities in accordance to the Anti-Corruption Action Plan regarding the establishment of Anti-Corruption Committee, supervising the performance and creating the mechanisms to improve the functions of the Ministry, personnel capacity building, and implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy. However, these activities are not substantially done. More importantly, a complete evaluation of the performance of senior commanders and a

credible assessment of the financial risks of the Ministry of National Defense which are key measures of the National Strategy is not done. It should be noted that the Ministry of National Defense has not provided sufficient supporting documents and evidence regarding its activities to the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat.

Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled

Major priorities

Strengthening the transparency of finance and facilitating the registration of assets of government officials; reform of civil services, retirements, martyrs and disabled people; institutionalization of open governance and enhancing transparency and accountability in administration; strengthen the internal audit; better compliance of the laws, regulations and procedures; implementation of the laws, procedures and approvals regarding fighting against corruption! responsibility of the office in the field of audit reports, reviews and external evaluations and strengthening the statistical basis of the ministry are included in the major priorities of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled.

- Regarding assets disclosure of officials in the ministry, 8 registered forms of central presidents and 3 registered forms of the provincial presidents have been sent to Administration office of the President.
- The procedure of preventing personal use of government facilities has been drafted in order to reduce the cost of consuming oil and lubricants from the state and to prevent the early depreciation of government vehicles. Based on this procedure from among 106 vehicles of the Ministry, 70 of them are equipped with a GPS system and the remained 36 vehicles are under the procurement process.
- A number of the state-owned devices, including two laptops, have been handed over to the Ministry and other devices including 2 flat screen TVs, 3 security cameras, a 20-foot container, and 52 stone cement barriers are officially notified for their returns to the Ministry.
- Regarding transparency in recruitment 16 central president positions and 10 provincial president positions are publicly announced through CBR process.
- Regarding monitoring the balance of consumption in the development budget the Ministry has monitored 6 projects in capital, which includes; vocational home-delivery service project; provide technical and vocational training for one thousand graduates from twelve classes; supervision of the distribution of the technical and vocational education and training program for disabled people; supervision of the project to improve the capacity of engineers; review the final report of the projects on technical and vocational education for saving groups and so on; and development of small businesses.
- The MoLSAMD has brought several reforms in the pension department of the Ministry and has planned to apply the biometric system in 6 zones of the provinces. The biometric system is being implemented in 4 zones of provinces (Kandahar, Herat, Balkh, Nangarhar) and it will be implemented in the other two zones also. The biometric recording of the provinces including the capital are as

followed; Balkh (civilian 2134, military 1096), Herat (civilian 1280, military 700), Nangarhar (civilian 759, military 609), Kandahar (civilian 200, military 25), Capital (civilian 1094, military 3444) and in this context, there is transparency in payments through the usage of the PMIS system.

- Reforms have also taken place in the martyrs' and Disabled's department, which includes;
- The new software system and biometrics have been installed, assembled and put into operation under the office of the deputy minister of martyrs and disabled;
- The office of the deputy minister for martyrs and disabled provide regular trainings on the implementation of the biometric and software systems to its staff members, which helps the staff members to get involved in the implementation of the system;
- The responsible central commission of audit of the heirs of martyrs and the missing people, according to the decree of the H.E Presidency of Afghanistan continues be implemented and review the relevant documents. In addition, the process of verification of the documents has started in all provinces besides Faryab.
- Several reforms have been made in order to facilitate the biometric process of the heirs of martyrs and missing people, creating a 'One Stop Shop' service delivery, which reduced many challenges of the applicants.
- The process of biometric registering of the martyrs and the missing people has been started and according to the MIS office report the documents of 2,870 martyrs and 8,894 documents of the heirs of the martyrs and missing people have been registered to the system.
- A total of 2,470 new cards have been published and distributed through the new software system. In the area of wide implementation of the new software system in Office of the Deputy Minister for Martyrs and Disabled, some progress has already been made. In addition, in the second quarter of the 1397 fiscal year, the mentioned system has practically started being implemented.
- There is some progress made in the area of the transformation of Office of the Deputy Minister for Martyrs and Disabled into an independent office and revision of its name to national support authority for disabled and martyrs' families.
- The draft of the mechanism of payment rights of the individuals with disabilities and the heirs of the martyrs has been sent to MoJ. The initial organizational structure of the National Department for Supporting heirs of Martyrs and Disabled finalized by the MoLSAMD and has been sent to the IARCSC.
- In accordance to Access to Information Law, all the laws, regulations, strategies and procedures have been published in the official website of the Ministry. One of the major achievements of the MoLSAMD in this six months was the holding of the National Labor Conference between 30 April and 1 May of 2018.

• MoLSAMD has also referred 15 corruption cases to Attorney General's Office, where from among 15 cases, 6 cases have been finalized. In addition, lately 3 more cases have been referred to AGO and 1 case has been referred to intelligence organizations.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled's, has not reported of any challenges in the implementation of their anti-corruption action plan.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The planned activities of MoLSAMD in first two quarters of the 1397 fiscal year are regularly continuous and the MoLSAMD has focused more on assets disclosure, adoption of the laws, regulations, strategies and procedures, especially the adoption of the procedure of preventing personal use of government facilities, adjustment of the Labor related laws, access to information and referral of corruption cases to judiciary. The MoLSAMD has also reported from the retirement and capacity building process of 5000 civil servants to the Special Secretariat.

Meanwhile, adequate evidence and documents from the activities of the MoLSAMD have been received by the Secretariat.

Ministry of Mines and Petroleum

Major priorities

Amending the Mining Law and preventing conflict of interest during the mining contracts, publication of the contracts detailed information and strengthening transparency in signing the miner contracts process, publication of the products of the contractor companies, providing transparency and enhancing non-financial revenue management processes, transparent audit of the mines, bidding processes and contract management, transparency of the procurement processes, enhancing the accountability of the companies to audit reports, government enterprises transparency, enhancing internal audit actions, adopting transparent industrial extraction standards, strengthening transparency in Hydrocarbons sector, strengthening public participation and consultation with the mining activities, coordination with Citizens Charter Program and allocation of 5% of mining revenues to the people living near mining sites through this program, preventing willful mining, improving the capacity of the office through recruitments based on merit, strengthening access to information, facilitating assets registration process of the officials, accountability of the Ministry against external audit and perform an independent assessment to identify corruption exposure areas include major priorities of the MoMP.

- The initial draft of the Mining Laws, which suggest the adjustment of the law in 8 areas, has been sent to MoJ for further approval.
- The MoMP has started to register the beneficiary companies' ownership, currently 20 companies have been registered and have been published to Ministry website.
- The initial draft of the sample contracts is prepared and has been shared with experts in order to receive their comments.
- The MoMP has collected its non-taxation contracts revenues and has published it in the website of the Ministry. The total revenues of the Ministry in first two quarters of 1397 fiscal year are 620,933,602 AFS.
- The digital system of Cadaster of the Mines is prepared in order to ensure transparency in the management of the contracts and about 900 of the contracts have been registered in the system.
- In order to ensure transparency in contract management, the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum has established a committee to investigate suspended contracts. The work has begun to examine 14 suspended contracts of the Ministry and the committee investigated the problems and challenges of the mentioned contracts and has prepared its plans for finalizing the contracts. Consequently, the problems of the some of the contracts have been solved, their implementation has begun, and other issues willbe resolved in near future. The contracts that are under process includes; Jabal-u-Saraj Cement Project, TAPI Project, Afghan- Tajik

Oil Project, Amu Darya Oil Project, Badakhshan Gold and Balkhab Copper Project, Shaida Copper Project, Zarkashan Gold and Copper Project, Gold and Copper Zarkashan project, Independent power generation system - (Mazar IPP) - , Independent power generation system - (Bayat IPP), - both of them powered by gas, Ghori Cement Contract, Totimaidan Petroleum Field field, Katavaz Oil project., Aynak copper contract.

- To ensure transparency in the management of contracts, the ministry has announced the launch of six new projects, including Jabal-u-Saraj Cement project, Herat Cement Project, Samangan Cement and three Talc, Marble, and Travertine contracts. The bidding process of these projects is in progress and in coordination with the National Procurement Authority (NPA). Fortunately, this work has been able to provide transparency in contract management.
- An internal procurement committee has been established in Ministry. In addition, the mechanism of the audit of the bidding process for mining contracts is 100% completed. Regarding procurement and capacity building of the staffs in the procurement office of the Ministry, 31 new staff members have been recruited through the CBR process and 16 procurement staff received National Procurement training.
- In accordance with Article 15 of the Access to Information Act, the activities of the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, conferences, procedure, reports of mining activities, from the center and provinces, reports to the Complaints office, reports of meetings of the High Economic Counci,l and announcements of bids have been continuously published online and social media. Meanwhile, the Ministry regularly has held (MSG) meetings, which one of the meetings held on 3rd April 2018.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

One of the challenges that the MoMP is confronted with is the slow process of amending their mining law.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The MoMP in order to ensure transparency in contract management has prepared a digital registration and licensing of mining system that is undergoing pilot testing. So far, there have been about 900 ministry contracts within the system. In addition, the audit mechanism of the bidding process for mining contracts has been established to ensure transparency of the new contracts.

In the field of transparency in internal procurement processes, the internal procurement committee has been established in order to deduct the corruption.

The activities of the MoMP regarding accreditation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Program in the first six months of the 1397 fiscal year include: holding of 3 MSG meetings in order to ensure transparency in extraction industries and the insertion of a compulsory rule of consulting with local communities by the companies whom are signing the contracts that, these activities are the achievements of the MoMP in implementing the law and prevention of its abuse. In addition, this activity provides awareness with the local communities of their rights in implementing the mining projects.

Moreover, in order to facilitate the process of assets registration, the Ministry has already distributed the forms to its stafs and has sent the filled forms to AOP but the number of sent forms is not clear yet to Special Secretariat.

Ministry of Public Health

Major priorities

Strengthening the implementation and observation of the health laws and regulations, increasing accountability and transparency in the delivery of health services, improving the quality of storage and distribution of health products, improving the transparency and responsiveness of marketing for health products, improving transparency in procurement and enhancing financial and human resource management and recruiting new staff based on merit are the major priorities of the MoPH.

- Terms of reference of the Health Council has been reviewed and adopted, meanwhile, it has been shared with the implementers' health programs and of the health projects.
- Ensuring the compliance of 50% of Ministry's staff with Code of Conduct of the MoPH in center and provinces including health centers, though 272 staff members of the Ministry have signed and studied the code.
- Awareness sessions have been held in 30 provinces regarding The National Strategy on Combating Corruption and 181 people have been trained through these workshops.
- The conflict-of-interest policy has been finalized in the health sector, and the translation of this document into national languages will begin soon.
- The complaints center has been established in centers, provinces and hospitals, which has trained 34 focal points in provinces and 24 focal points in Kabul hospitals in order to receive complaints.
- In the past two quarters 75 complaints have been received by the Ministry, 93% of which were handled.
- Afghanistan Medical High council has been established and is active currently.
- In order to ensure the quality of medicines, the Ministry has monitored 15 internal medicine enterprises and more than 2,000 companies which are importing medical treatments.
- More than 800 medical and surgical importing companies were declared illegal and their import licenses have been cancelled by the Ministry.
- 145 enterprises (large drugstores, pharmacies and chemists) have been prosecuted for various offences.
- According to action plan of the Ministry for quality tests of the pharmaceutical samples from among 18,000 samples, 5,200 have passed the quality test.
- Forms of confidentiality and disclosure of conflicts of interest have been signed by all members of the procurement evaluation committees during the procurement process.
- In order to regulate the procurement processes, procurement laws and regulations are implemented in various stages of the process.
- 147 new staff have been recruited based on the Civil Servants Law's grades as well as 9 recruitments through CBR process.
- In order to obtain a quality certificate, key Performance Indicators for Human Resource and Finance Departments have provided by the Ministry.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

Major problems and challenges that MoPH is confronting in implementing its action plan are: weak cooperation of the relevant agencies in the process of signing the Code of Conduct for Civil Servants secondly; time consuming recruitment process and failures to hold civil servants exam, and; Health councils need to be educated, informed and guided in the implementation of their TOR that includes anti-corruption activities.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The Ministry of Public Health, in the first two quarters of the 1397 fiscal year, implemented most of its planned activities in accordance with the plan and has sent its supporting documents and quarterly reports to the Special Secretariat in a timely manner. The Ministry has made effective efforts in drafting laws, regulations, and policies in regulating the health sector. In addition, by following violations, monitoring medical productions, handling complaints, preventing import and production of less quality medicines has increased Ministry's accountability to the public.

Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development

Major priorities

Strengthening accountability and awareness, improving the administration and ensuring transparency, assets registration of the staff, preventing outside in selecting projects and strengthening monitoring, evaluation, accountability and internal audits are all major priorities of the MRRD.

Major activities and achievements

- In order to ensure procurement transparency in procurement projects of the Ministry, a procurement system has been established;
- 146 distributed assets declaration forms, 140 registered forms of central and provincial presidencies and procurement staffs has been sent to the AOP;
- The bidding process has been digitized for the purpose of ensuring transparency of procurement;
- The CBR process has been applied in monitoring and evaluation directorate for the new recruitments of Ministry and the positions have been announced along with the ToRs.
- The TMS system has been established in order to ensure timely control of central and provincial departments and ensure transparency and accountability;
- His Excellency, President Ashraf Ghani, ordered the coherence of three programs of the Ministry. As such, Ministry has drafted the reducing task interference and parallel structures plan along with its application guide.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development has not mentioned any problems or challenges in the implementation of its activities.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The planned activities of the MRRD in first two quarters of the 1397 fiscal year focused more on assets registration of the staff, establishment of procurement systems, launching of the TMS system, digitization of the bidding process, drafting and[' reducing task interference and parallel structures plan along with its application guide and implementing the CBR process for the recruitments.

The MRRD has not declared the detailed information of the number of contracts that has been registered through the procurement system. Nonetheless, the MRRD has sent sufficient evidence and documents for supporting their activities to the Special Secretariat.

Ministry of Communication and Information Technology

<u>Major priorities</u>

Promotion and development of the Electronic Governance (e-governance) system to ensure transparency, facilitating, accelerating and creating transparent civil services for the citizen, providing transparent communication and internet services across the country, capacity building and recruiting expert staff and lastly strengthening transparency and accountability are all includes the major priorities of the MCIT.

Major activities and achievements

- In order to provide transparent and effective services for citizen work permit distribution has been digitized.
- The Labor Market Information System (LMIS) and Asan Wazifa systems, which are for facilitating citizen's access to job announcement of government institutions, have been established.
- The Law of Combating against Cyber Crimes has been drafted and sent to the MoJ for approval.
- Government Information Portal has been created through which public will get access to information.
- In order to facilitate citizens passport issues the passports are distributed through Afghan Post in all 32 provinces.
- Access to information unit has been established in Ministry in order to facilitate access to information of the citizens.
- 97 assets registration forms of senior officials of the MICT have been sent to the AOP.
- 3 corruption cases referred to judiciary and judicial authorities for further investigation.
- The salaries of 4500 staff members of MoLSAMD and Nangarhar province teachers have been paid through Mobile Salary Payment (MSP).

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

One of the major challenges of the MICT is the delay in adoption process of the egovernance law and cybercrimes law due to lack of experts in this field.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The MCIT has completed the following activities in the first two quarters of the 1397 fiscal year: the electronic passport system is installed at the Central Passport office and is used to issue 4,500 passports daily. This system is only used by the staff of the Passport Department and this activity has increased the speed, capacity and transparency of the passport process. In addition, the online passport system will be opened in a way that citizens can use online forms for obtaining passports, the e-

governance law and cybercrimes law will prevent illegal activities and will provide electronic government facilities for public, and government information portal has been created.

The MICT planned activities are under regular implementation in this fiscal year as well as the Ministry has provided evidence and documents to support the planned activities.

Ministry of Education

<u>Major priorities</u>

Reforming the organizational structure according to main duties of the Ministry, creating resource efficiency to print and distribute textbooks, to increase responsiveness of finance and procurement sectors, educational supervision, civil society participation, recruiting human resources, reforms in financial management, strengthening internal audist and asset registration of the senior officials are the major priorities of MoE.

Major activities and achievements

- The MoE has drafted the general guidance for reformation of the organizational structure.
- In order to facilitate audit duties of the audit staff and to enhance coordination activities between organizations, 27 vulnerable to corruption areas have been identified based on a collaborative system.
- In order to increase transparency in recruitment, 13,500 teachers positions have been registered and all applicants have been given online access to their information and progress.
- The budgeting and tracking expenditure system has been established between central and provincial education departments. In addition, in order to facilitate the sent and receive process of financial documents, electronic document management system of the financial documents has been launched.
- 152 out of 200 distributed assets registration forms of the MoE are completed and sent to the Administrative Office of the President (AOP).
- A committee has been appointed for revision of educational supervision general directorate act, as well as the usage guidance for use of monitoring forms has been drafted.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The major problems and challenges that the MoE was confronting in the previous six month of the 1397 fiscal year were poor understanding of staff from the National Strategy and the action plans especially in provinces, and low capacity of staff within the Ministry, poor coordination between the directorates of MoE, and late transmission of the reports.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The planned activities of MoE in first two quarters of the 1397 fiscal year, are focused more in recruitment of teachers, assets disclosure, arranging budgetary systems, drafting guidance and creating supervision committees.

In order to ensure transparency in recruitment, 13,500 teacher positions have been registered and all applicants have been given online access to their information and progress. In other words, candidates can get acquainted regarding vacant positions at the district level and register in an electronic system provided by the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IACSC).

One of the achievements of the MoE regarding financial transparency is that a new budgeting and tracking expenditure system has established between provincial and central education departments.

The Ministry has provided evidence and documents to support all of its reported completed activities.

Ministry of Energy and Water

Major priorities

Reforms in financial, human resources, and procurement systems, strengthening internal audit, reforms in energy sector for effective use of public funds and effective compliance of energy projects, broad reforms in water sector, financial management of water projects and implementing quality based water projects are includes major priorities of the MoEW.

Major activities and achievements

- 79 assets registration forms of senior officials in the MoEW have been sent to Administrative Office of the President (AOP).
- In order to activate the HRMIS system, the initial steps have been taken, including the purchase of the system's equipment.
- The activities of the central and provincial directorates have been investigated, consequently two offenders were introduced to the Attorney General for further investigations.
- In order to ensure access to information to public, the information office has been established in the Ministry and currently the information is regularly updating through the website of the Ministry.
- The Management Information System (MIS) has been established in order to ensure the better management of the projects.
- The initial draft of the two guidelines: 1. Standardization of the submission process of the completed projects, and 2. Strengthening supervision of the implementation of small projects and consolidation of the coastal areas has been prepared.
- In order to reduce loss of water and to provide easy access to water, 42 coastal consolidation projects have been prioritized.
- In the context of ground water resources, the ground water resources policy has been revised, also it has been presented to the Land and Water High Council, meanwhile it has been decided that the policy will develop in close coordination with Afghanistan Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Corporation.
- In order to regulate the energy market and to ease the private sector's energy market regulation the regulations and procedures have been finalized and its draft has been shared with the Economic High Council for review.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The major problems and challenges of the MoEW in implementation of the action plan of in first 6 month of the fiscal year 1397 include: the security problems in implementation and supervision of some projects, specifically projects that are under implementation in insecure areas, land acquisition problems in implementation of the projects, time-consuming legal processes of the laws and regulations, seizure of the water resources by the local powerful people, shortage of water resources due to climate changes in the region, increase of water conflicts and less cooperation of the involved departments with MoEW.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The activities of the MoEW in the past six months was mainly focused on assets registration, monitoring the watercourses in order to ensure the right to water, drafting laws, regulations, procedures and guidelines in the fields of investment for private sector and issuance of the activation permit for them, regulating the electronic energy market, developing an MIS system for the projects management and introduction of the offenders to General attorney. In addition, the establishment of the electronic property accounting system and establishment of the HRMIS database of the MoEW has been completed in the first quarter.

Consequently, it is worth mentioning that the MoEW has sent evidence and documents for support of their activities to Special Secretariat.

Ministry of Economy

Major priorities

Effective and transparent human resources management, transparent management of the procurement issues, strengthening internal audits and increasing accountability and effective management of the non-governmental organization affairs are all the major priorities of the MoEC.

- The Electronic attendance system has been activated in the Ministry, in order to ensure transparency in MoEC.
- 80 assets registration forms of the senior officials including financial and procurement staff have been submitted to Administrative Office of the President (AOP).
- The Ministry has established a regular mechanism to publish the procurement documents in official website of the Ministry, and3 procurement contracts have been published online, a local newspaper and a bulletin board.
- In order to ensure access to information right of the citizens, access to information office has been established in MoEC. Meanwhile, information about the Ministries activities are regularly updating through the official website of the Ministry for public access.
- In order to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation process of procurement activities and to reduce additional process Tracking Systems of the financial and procurement activities have been developed.
- In order to prevent the loss and abuse of the goods, an Inventory System was established; ensuring that all purchased goods, after being handed to the Ministry and passing a legal process are returned to individuals. In addition, an electronic assets management system is launched in the Ministry, which would sign contracts soon with successful companies. The overall objective of this measure is to create transparency in registration of the goods and properties of the Ministry in order to prevent their loss.
- The Ministry audits all provincial economic directorates in financial, procurement, administrative, human resources areas and also non-governmental organizations through an audit checklist.
- In order to prevent corruption in providing services for the public, Standard Operating Systems (SOP) have established and arranged.
- The Ministry has recruited new staff in order to oversee the proper management of the India's small development projects.
- The One Stop Shop branch has been established in reception part of the Ministry, and has made it easer for all applicants to solve their problems.
- New professional staff members are recruited in recently bided vacancies.

- In order to establish the registration and report process of NGOs, the ministry has drafted the TOR of the positions and the related database will be prepared in coming quarters.
- In order to prevent misuse of the public properties (Bait-al-mal) and based on NGOs law, the ministry has drafted a procedure for the management of movable and immovable properties of the NGOs. In addition, an online portal will be created for registration and monitoring of these properties.
- The Ministry will provide a comprehensive and broad program in cooperation with the MoF in order to prevent tax evasion of the NGOs. Meanwhile, in this context, they have held meetings on tax issues and challenges of institutions under the SMAF 24 indicators.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The Ministry of Economy has not mentioned any problems or challenges in the implementation of its activities.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The MoEC activities in the past six months was mainly focused on establishing and electronic attendance system, tracking system, inventory system, establishing One Stop Shop office in reception branch of the Ministry, assets registration, drafting laws, regulations and procedures, establishing access to information office, preparation of a comprehensive program to prevent tax-evasion of the NGOs and holding meetings on tax issues and challenges of institutions under the Self-reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework (SMAF) 24 indicators. Consequently, it's worth mentioning that the MoEC has sent evidences and documents for support of their activities to Special Secretariat.

Ministry of Higher Education

Major priorities

Reviewing the educational curriculum and legal documents, merit based recruitment, eliminating corruption in private universities, finance and dormitory management, reforming scholarships distributions and Judicial protection, strengthening internal audits and increase of transparency and accountability are part of major priorities of Ministry of Higher Education.

- Establishment of private higher education institutions' evaluation committee composed of experts from the ministry and public universities, to evaluate and finalize the third round of private higher education institutions' evaluation in Kabul and provinces. The mentioned committee is established and started its activities to oversee the process of private universities' services
- Identification of 298 administrative and 272 cadre vacancies and sharing them with the Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Commission (IARCSC) for public announcement. As a result, IARCSC has introduced 10 successful candidates to H.E. the President's' office for approval. In addition, the examinations of two directorate vacancies are finalized in coordination with the IARCSC through Capacity Building for Results (CBR) project.
- Organizational-Structure committee of ministry based on academic standards has finalized division of 400 extra vacancies. Out of these, 128 vacancies are identified for administrative and services and 272 vacancies are identified for academic institutions, which is already disseminated in higher education institutions and being added to their organizational structure. After analysis and evaluation of the organizational structure, it is being unified and sent to IARCSC. Currently, the organizational structure is in its approval stage.
- Preparing a capacity-building plan for employees by the department of education and capacity building of Human Resource Directorate and introducing 278 employees to management, leadership, monitoring, evaluation, procurement, report writing, and code of conduct for civil servants programs.
- Oversight on implementation of academic legislative documents in private higher education institutions. Over the past six months, the ministry has visited 10 private higher education institutions, 14 institutions are under evaluation, and 12 institutions are evaluated for the quality of teaching, research, academic publications, implementation and development of curriculum. In addition, in this process, 6 public universities are evaluated, 5 were visited and 4 other are being assessed.
- Revision and modification of the regulation on the establishment and functioning of private higher education institutions in order to eliminate corruption in the

process of establishing and license issuing procedures for founders of private higher education institutions

- Accreditation of the education quality of an academic institution, while six other educational institutions are under accreditation;
- A committee has been set up, combined of the director of private higher education institutions, graduate Kankor examinations and legal affairs manager. The committee is working on a comprehensive procedure for the implementation of the private college entrance examinations from the Ministry of Higher Education Kankor Department. After preparing the procedure, the plan will be sent to one of the leadership board meetings for approval.
- By reviewing the sources of income, an amount of AFN 29,863,543 has been collected and delivered to the revenue department of Ministry of Finance, and the issue of financial independence of central universities has been formally discussed with the relevant authorities and serious follow-up is continuing for the unification of the three-year revenues of the central universities;
- The Internal Audit Department has been carried out its planned and unplanned activities and shared its findings from the audited offices to the information, public relations, and publications directorate, which this information is available through the Ministry's website;
- A total of 373 ministry officials including high ranking and lower-ranked employees have declared their assets;
- Carrying out in-depth planned and unplanned reviews by internal audit and sending five cases of corruption, including the forging of educational documents and administrative corruption at Kabul Polytechnic University, to justice departments for follow ups;
- Audit reports' recommendations and external assessments are implemented at the ministry. As result of audit activities, an amount of AFN 26,047,930 had returned to the governments' account.

Difficulties and Challenges of implementing the action plan

Ministry of Higher Education had been reported that lack of cooperation of the internal departments with the ministry's representative in reporting on the implementation of the anti-corruption action plan, and lack of attention on the importance of the National Strategy for Combating Corruption are the major problems against the implementation of the anti-corruption action plan.

Analysis of performance and achievements

In the Ministry of Higher Education's Anti-Corruption Action Plan, 24 activities were planned for the past two quarters. Of these, 6 of its activities are continuous and 17 of its activities had to be completed by the end of the second quarter of the current fiscal year. In 6 continuous activities, the goals set for the first six months of the fiscal year were completed, but out of the 17 activities that had to be completed at the end of the first six months, only 11 of its activities are completed.

Establishment of private higher education institutions' evaluation committee, identification and public announcement of vacancies, adding of 400 administrative and professional positions to the ministry's structure, preparing an employee's capacity building plan, and introducing 278 personnel to management, leadership, monitoring, evaluation, procurement, report writing, and code of conduct for civil servants educational programs, monitoring the implementation of academic documents in public and private educational institutions, and registering assets of 373 high-level and low-level officials are major activities and achievements by the Ministry of Higher Education in the past six months.

Regarding joint work with the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled in encouraging the retirement, resignation or capacity building of more than (5000) employees, revision of the law and Sharia faculties' curriculum on the basis of recommendations by Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC), solving the acting directors problem and completing the recruitment of employees in the newly-added vacancies to the Ministry's structure –Tahskel- are major areas that are delayed due to the timing of the anti-corruption action plan of the Ministry of Higher Education and needs attention.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Major priorities

Strengthening human resource management and recruitment transparency, capacity building, transparency of the administrative and procurement affairs, ensuring transparency in issuance and distribution of diplomatic passports, preventing abuses in consular affairs, strengthening transparency, access to information, internal audit and increasing accountability are all major priorities of the MoFA.

- In the context of transparency in recruitment, from among 870 participants 43 new staff have been recruited through a transparent process with existence of committee, in order to prevent the influence of politicians in the process. In addition, 25 staff members of the Ministry have been deployed to diplomatic missions.
- The MoFA in cooperation with MoF installed a new software system in order to record revenues and expenditure of the ministry in center and diplomatic agencies, making20% progress in first quarter.
- In order to create a complete transparency in the processes, the Ministry established a monitoring system regarding daily remittances, monthly and quarterly expenses and salaries of center, political and consular agencies. Additionally, quarterly reports on the costs, revenues and deductions of the accounting documents of political and consular agencies has been presented to the MoFA and MoF. Since this activity continues in this fiscal year, exact percentage of its progression has not been mentioned in the report.
- In order to ensure transparency in issuance of diplomatic passports and prevent the abuse of these passports, the Ministry has collected all the diplomatic passports and according to Ministry's report there is 90% progress in applying this rule.
- In the area of laws and regulations, the diplomatic service law and the customs exemption act of the other diplomatic agencies to Afghanistan have been drafted.
- In order to prevent the abuse of work hours, mechanism of accurate working hour mechanism has been drafted by the Ministry, thus the Ministry in light of Labor Law and regulations of MoLSAMD adapts its operations.
- Human Resources Information Management System (HRIS) has been established and is currently being used.
- The MoFA in the context of drafting and implementing the Administration Development Strategy and in the light foreign policies of the Country has proposed the establishment of four delegations including an embassy and 3 general consular offices. The delegation proposed to be established in Shanghai (China), Lahore (Pakistan), Hyderabad (India) and Bangkok (Thailand), observing the comments of the commission which was created for this purpose.

- The Ministry has approved proposal No. 128 datied 22/04/2018 and proposal No. 111 datied 30/07/1397 in order to enhance proper use of government vehicles and to equip them with GPS systems, and ordered their procurement procedure follow up.
- Properties of the Ministry inside and abroad Afghanistan based on official letter No. 6561 of the Administration Office of the President have been registered and published online through the official website of the Ministry. Property registration of the Ministry in centers is not completed yet due to applied survey of the Afghanistan Land Authority engineers.
- the Internal Audit office regularly monitors the implementation of laws and regulations and has developed ways to prevent the abuse of the delegated power.
- In order to connect Afghanistan's consular directorate to other consular agencies, the rebuilding progress of the lower section of the directorate and its connection to the (Web-based) database has begun. In addition, regarding this, the installation of the Queue Management System has been started in order to enhance customer overcrowding management.
- Memorandum of cooperation and joint activity regarding identity verification, distribution and issuance of National ID cards for Afghans residing in Gulf States, Iran and Pakistan has been signed between the MoFA, MoLSAMD and Afghanistan Central Civil Registration Authority (ACCRA).
- The Ministry has distributed new passports through collection of biometrics for Afghans residing in Iran, Pakistan and Gulf States; 24640 copies have been dispatched to Iran for Afghans, more than 150,219 copies for the Afghans residing in Gulf States.
- In order to promote awareness of the laws and rules and to prevent the abuse of authority, the Ministry has held awareness sessions for 50 staff.
- In order to prevent cooperation with illegal demands of some influential people, Consular Affairs Directorate, w in collaboration with foreign embassies, to Kabul during 1396 year prevented 63 forgery cases in documents and visa applications; with only one visa application issue was from Kazakhstan and the rest from Turkey. The documents have been sent to the MoIA for further investigations.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The major challenges of the MoFA in implementing the plan are abuse of political influence on appointments and exclusion of the consular and protocol clients in some cases.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The MoFA has completed 5 planned activities in the past six months of the 1397 fiscal year and the remaining activities are regularly continuing. The Ministry has focused

more on preventing abuse of diplomatic passports, preventing political influence of politicians in recruitment, preparing initial drafts of laws and regulations and lack of cooperation with all unlawful demands of the powerful people.

In addition, implementation of the code of conduct of the staff, monitoring conduct of the head of the missions and serious actions against offenders are all ongoing activities. The mentioned code of conduct has been dispatched to all diplomatic missions, delegations, consular agencies and provincial directorates of the Ministry based on unified official letter No. 405 and No.1183.

Moreover, the human resource office based on article 28 of the Civil Servants Law has appointed a dispute settlement committee by membership of the heads of the human resource office, heads of internal audit office, human rights, women international relations office and second deputy dean of the office, upon receipt of a formal complaint actively solve it, consequently the committee has given recommendations to a number offenders.

The MoFA has provided adequate supporting documents and evidences of implementing the action plan to the Special Secretariat.

Ministry of Counter Narcotics

Major priorities

Enhancing good governance and strengthening transparency in recruitment of competent and professional staff, cooperation with judiciary organs in to deal with corruption cases, strengthening transparency in procurement process & financial affairs, strengthening access to information right, assets registration and promoting accountability are all includes major priorities of the MCN.

Major activities and achievements

- In order to properly define corrupted areas, an anti-corruption committee has been established inside the Ministry.
- Financial and budget committee has been established in the Ministry which caused appropriate allocation of the budget.
- Procurement plan of the Ministry has been prepared which caused requirements better identification based on priorities.
- The questionnaire has been drafted and published through the MCN official website.
- New staff recruitment plan has been drafted and new staffs have been recruited and published on the official website.
- An oversight committee has been established in order regulate work trips and scholarships.
- The elder employees and those who have not been able to work more and have reached the age of retirement have been persuaded to retirement.
- In order to accelerate procurement process and increase transparency in process professional forms have been prepared.
- In order to adapt ordinary development budget of the Ministry, accurate information has been collected.
- Providing new payroll and remittance system for the financial branch of the Ministry.
- Monitoring and evaluating the process such as; procurement, recruitment, administrative and technical and sharing them with the High Council on Rule of Law.
- Providing a complaints box in the Ministry in order to receive complaints of the applicants and staff members.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The major problems and challenges that the Ministry is confronting with are: delays in judicial procedures in MoJ, lack of budget for activation of technological systems in central and provincial directorates, and delays in recruitment process in IARCSC.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The Ministry of Counter Narcotics in the past six months of the 1397 fiscal year has made several major achievements in implementing the anti-corruption action plan. Consequently, by establishing the anti-corruption and budget and financial committee transparency and accountability have been strengthened in the Ministry. In addition, complaints box for receiving complaints of citizens and staff members has been placed in Ministry.

It's worth mentioning, that the Special Secretariat has received the evidence and documents from the Ministry which were all for supporting of their activities.

Ministry of Borders and Tribal Affairs

Major priorities

Supervising the admission process of new students from tribal and insecure provinces in schools and educational institutions of the Ministry, the council's (Jirga-h) management and distributing tribal ID cards, management of distribution process of goods and supplying services, procurement process, management of budget based on better result, recruitment and human resource management and strengthening transparency and accountability are all includes major priorities of the MoBTA.

- In order for better management of assets and properties of the Ministry, a Unified Information Management System has been finalized by the BTMIS project and is currently active in the Ministry.
- In order to ensure transparency in procurement process of the Ministry, the Ministry has monitored the procurement process of 18 contracts, (88244 kg) bread, (7046 kg) meet, fuels, foods, fruits, magazines, furniture, IT devices, BTMIS and Internet.
- The access to information office has been established in the Ministry by membership of staff members.
- In order to expend the budget properly and according to plan the Ministry has monitored expenditure of 27% ordinary and 25.17% development project.
- The Ministry has regularly monitored the admission process of students in (Rahman baba, Khosh-hal khan and Peer mohamad kakar) schools and in the first quarter 1,666 students have been registered in these schools. Additionally, the Ministry applied several penalties for violator of the Labor and Civil Servants Law; including shifting of 13 employees from the Khosh- hal Khan School.
- The Ministry has provide several reform guides regarding; procurement, financial management, assets management, management of budget based on better result and council's (Jirga-h) management in order to have better services.
- From among 69 distributed assets registration forms, 39 filled forms have been submitted to Administrative Office of the President.
- The recruitment process of 40 new staffs of central and provincial directorates has been monitored by members of Oversight Committee and IARCSC observing Human resources recruitment procedure.
- The onternal audit office has been established in order to investigate audit and monitoring results.
- In order to consolidate national unity, national sovereignty, tribal disputes settlement, and supporting parliamentary elections the Ministry has hold several programs and Jirga-h's.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The major challenges of MoBTA in implementing the plan are: insecurity in provinces, delays in recruitment process by the IARCSC, lack of proper resources for procurement, delays in budget approval in MoF, limited staff and poor capacity of staffs in management.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The MoBTA activities in the past six months were mainly focused on monitoring of the procurement, budget expenditure, recruitment and students registration process, establishing Information management system, holding Jirgas and programs for central and provincial directorates and establishing access to information office. The Ministry has provided sufficient evidence and supporting documents to the Special Secretariat,

Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs

Major priorities

Reforming the religious programs, Hajj program, endowment and administrative programs, strengthening internal audit and accountability of ministry are of the major priorities of the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs.

- Preparing procedures for the use of electricity in mosques, curriculum of Darulhefazes (Madrasas) and curriculum of teachings in mosques, establishment and registration of Darulhefaze and Daralqras, examination and selection of Qaris and introducing them in mosques; issuance of normative and standard permits to the travel agencies in the field of Umrah and Ziarat services; Selection of Qaris for their participation in international competitions abroad; state of the presence of religious scholars in the mosque and Husseiniyahs offices at the provincial and central levels; and the registration of private schools, mosques and Hussainiyahs; researching and writing articles on religious themes in order to pay remuneration for researchers;
- A monitoring mechanism has been developed and implemented for the process of teaching in registered mosques and schools. Procedure for the payment of the Haj Workers' Committees wages is developed and sent to the H.E. President for approval. In addition, work on the information technology process for the effective use of technology and the prevention of the purchase of unreliable equipment has gone up by 80%, and procedure of building mosques in central and provincial levels to prevent the intervention of powerful local and state actors have been reviewed, and is being sent to the H.E. minister for remarks.
- 400 volumes of guiding books on Friday prayer sermons, which have important and valuable religious content, especially in the field of anti-corruption, have been published and distributed in mosques in the country. Three articles on fighting corruption have been prepared and 5 billboards containing religious messages on the fight against corruption are installed in different parts of Kabul city. 50 promotional messages have been made by central and provincial offices in the fight against administrative and ethics corruption. Presenting 4 main sermons on the fight against corruption and financial issues, and preparing 4 titles of Sharia decree (Fatwa) for the fight against corruption; and the issuance of guidance to all the provinces through the use of official letters to include a subject in the curriculum of private schools in the fight against corruption.
- Professional members of the Department of Tadqeeq and Studies have been present in 14 different media in order to convey Islamic legal views on the fight against corruption. The missionary committee has also participated in various mosques in Kabul and provinces to present the Islamic perspective on the fight against corruption;

- Fair distribution of 30,000 Hajj's shares based on a country-wide standard according to the central statistics census, based on the number of populations in 34 provinces, and a clear, precise lottery of 25,000 people to determine the Hajj's turn, according to the lottery procedure under a mixed committee and simultaneously publicly announcement of the lottery result;
- Revision of 150 contracts and adding of supporting documents in Saudi Arabia under the supervision of the National Procurement Authority (NPA) secretariat. The contract of 240 endowed areas have been adjusted and standardized. Relevant affairs cases to endowment are under prosecution in the justice departments. Based on internal audit findings, 34 directors, advisers, central and provincial officials have been evaluated in order to prevent corruption in the ministry. 37 complaint boxes are installed at the center and provinces, and there were 5 informational notifications from the Office of Chief of Staff of minister are inserted at the ministry for timely implementation of the elimination of corruption in the office;
- The monitoring and compliance addressing committee during the Hajj process and the dispatch of the provincial boards to the provinces has been established based on minister's decree under the Hajj Internal Committee. The proposal for legitimate use of the pre-paid money by Hajjis is being submitted to the supposal Haj Committee and H.E. Minister. The Endowment Committee is formed to analyze and deal with endowment issues, which currently the committee is reviewing endowment affairs. In addition, the Internal Audit Committee has been established within the Ministry under H.E. Minister Leadership to decide on the findings of the internal and external auditing department and to improve the audit work. The work has begun on the implementation of findings and suggestions of the internal audit Supreme Audit Office (SAO). In addition, the Supervisory Committee on timely implementation of allocations and remittances for regular and development budgets and the prevention of the involvement of employees with the contractors is established;
- A total of 594 religious affairs employees in grades 3, 4, 5, and 8, 19 personnel in grades 2, 3, 4, 5, and 26 staff in grades 7 and 8 of central and provinces are recruited through an open competition. Continuous monitoring of six e-staff base attendance and the activation of electronic attendance machines has been done and its report is presented to the High Committee of Anti-Corruption. 252 staff in Kabul and 689 employees in provinces are being evaluated in order to identify their weaknesses according to the law or upgrade them in higher positions;
- Introducing of procurement staff in three procurement training programs, launched by the Civil Service Institute and the National Procurement Authority (NPA). Conducting a training course for new staff of the procurement department, in cooperation with the National Procurement Authority (NPA);
- In relation to the establishment of the Hajj money service information system, the regular and development budget, and endowment revenues for healthy

management of financial resources, with transparency and accountability in collection and spending, as well as accurate and timely monitoring and reporting of its implementation, 50% of work has been done and the design of the system is underway. The design and implementation of the procurement control system for the logistics is being recorded during the process, as well as to avoid unnecessary purchases, cost savings, appropriate solutions to the problems of the ministry's property facilities for its effective use is implemented in the center and provinces by the need assessment committee;

• The Endowment Law has been drafted by the Endowment Committee and representative of the Ministry of Justice. The law has been sent to the Ministry of Justice for Tadqeeq and follow up is ongoing.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

Lack of capacity in central and provincial units, failure in timely processing of the endowment law by the relevant government institutions, intervention of powerful people in confiscation of the endowed properties, slowness of the courts in proceedings of relative cases in the event of a final dispute, shortage in the structure of Endowment directorate, shortage in the structure of Hajj and pilgrimage directorate in the country and abroad and the shortage in the structure of internal audit department in terms of the load of work and the responsibilities are the main challenges that have been reported by Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs in implementation of their anticorruption action plan.

Analysis of performance and achievements

Of the total 70 activities planned in the anti-corruption action plan of the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs, the ministry has progress in 60 activities over the past six months. Of these activities, 14 activities were completed and 43 activities are ongoing. Two activities have not begun, and the reason is not presented. One activity has been delayed due to the decree No. 66 of March 29, 2018 issued by the H.E. President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to prevent the creation of a parallel information systems and the creation of a single system.

During the past six months, major activities and achievements of the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs have been focused on the creation, revision, and modification of procedures, oversight and executive mechanisms for the proper supervision and management of guidance affairs, Hajj endowment and administration, strengthening public awareness on the fight against corruption from the religious point of view through the publishing, and distribution of books and articles, issuance of instructions, religious Fatwas, promotional messages and religious sermons, transparency of the distribution of Hajj quota allocations, modification and revision of procurement contracts, conducting internal audits, follow up on relative documents sent to justice departments for prosecution, installation of complaints boxes and activation of 5 informational posters on misuse and corruption in the ministry.

Ministry of Information and Culture

Major priorities

Establishment of a transparent and accountable system in finance departments of the ministry, reforming procurement process based on related laws, professionalizing and implementing merit based principles in the ministry, authentic management, continues and transparent follow up of projects and strengthening internal audit and transparency in the ministry are major priorities of the Ministry of Information and Culture (MoIC).

- All projects, including major repairs of the central building, Youth affairs building, National Museum Directorate, Afghan Film Directorate, National Conservatory Directorate, National Gallery Department, National Archives Department, Tourism Department, Music Directorate, Behaqi Directorate, Directorate of Cultural Heritage, Directorate of Kabul Nandari, Archaeological Directorate and Public Library Directorate, Construction of the local library of Parwan province. Additionally, major repairs of the Khanaqa mosque in the village of Deh Asl, Khorram and Sarbagh district of Samangan province, and provision of diesel and petrol according to the procurement rules and based on the free competition and public announcement;
- 90 central and provincial positions (grades 2, 3, and 4) are publicly announced through the Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Commission (IARCSC) for merit-based recruitment of professional persons through free competition in order to improve the efficiency of the administration's work. Evaluation of staff performance, appreciation and implementation of principle of reward and punishment, which as a result, 137 employees were appreciated both in terms of spirituality and materiality, and about 2 people from Kandahar and Ghor provinces were punished and warned;
- The complaints box is installed at the main office, which is opened weekly in the presence of minister to ensure timely and effective handling of referral complaints
- The activities of the Afghan Tour Directorate and two provincial directorates have been reviewed and reported to the Minister;
- Developments projects are divided for provinces according to the principle of balance. Continuous monitoring is being done on 35 regular and development projects, timely implementation of installments and payments to contractual companies was carried out, with the payment of seven companies paid in time;
- The needs assessment on organizational structure reform has been carried out, which, as a result, the methods and structures that that needs to be reformed are identified;

• A needs assessment on comprehensive follow-up system is identified and preparatory work is already begun.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

Delay in the process of developing the anti-corruption action plan as in the first quarter only a draft of it was developed and by the end of second quarter, it has been finalized. Lack of a specific budget to initiate the creation of an online system for tracking payment transfers were the major problems and challenges in the implementation of the anti-corruption action plan.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The activities and actions taken by the Ministry of Information and Culture over the past six months have shown that the Ministry was able to complete the 7 main activities of the action plan. Most of the planned activities for the past six months have been implemented in a manner that meets the priorities set out in the administration's action plan. According to the ministry's report, delays in the implementation of the action plan and the lack of funds have raised problems for the implementation of the planned activities for the Ministry.

Reform and ensuring the transparency of procurement processes through public announcements of all normal and development projects, public announcements of vacancies under supervision of the Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Commission (IARCSC), the establishment of a complaints handling mechanism under the authority of the ministry and strengthening the management of development projects has been major achievement of the ministry over the past six months.

However, establishment of a transparent and accountable system in finance departments of the ministry, strengthening monitoring of projects and reporting of results in this regard, failure to provide a report on the state of conducting an independent external evaluation to strengthen the statistical status of the ministry and failure to report on the results and state of implementation of suggestions provided by internal audit and reviews are major issues in the report of Ministry of Information and Culture (MoIC).

Ministry of Women Affairs

Major priorities

Strengthening control and the internal audit in helping asset registration of officials and employees of ministry, strengthening the transparency, accountability and statistical statute of the ministry and identification of vulnerable areas to corruption are major priorities of the Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA).

- Establishment of anti-corruption mechanisms including creation of an internal anti-corruption committee, creation of a committee to receive and address complaints, installation of complaints boxes, and renewal of procurement members' board in order to strengthen transparency and institutionalize fight against corruption in the ministry.
- Revision of Ministry's organizational structure and Terms of References (ToRs) and separation of procurement management from the directorate of finance and administration in order to enhance accountability of authorities and eliminate responsibility interventions between procurement, finance and administration sections
- Digitalization of attendance and payment of employees' salaries for better management of presence and absence of employees and securement of accountability in salary payments
- Yearly performance review of 158 employees with presence of their direct manager, first manager, and representative of Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Commission (IARCSC) and implementation of reward and punishment principlse for improvement of employees and creation of a healthy competitive environment
- Registration of 30 officials' assets above grade 2, including procurement staff and sending them to Administrative Office of the President (AOP). Asset registration forms are disseminated among 34 provincial directors of women affairs and it will be completed by the end of the year
- Introducing of 20 employees of the ministry to educational programs on finance management, which was conducted with support of Afghanistan Justice Sector Support Program (JSSP) for improving finance management capacity of offices
- Merit based recruitment of 6 employees and 3 supporting staff through an open competition, and appointment of employees in the vacancies. In addition, continuing of recruitment process for other 16 vacancies, which is announced in the center and provinces. The mentioned vacancies are directors of chief of staff for directorates, human resource, finance and administration, directorate of law and senior adviser.
- Review and audit of 3 provincial directorates of ministry and monitoring of 5 safe houses in Balkh, Sar-ePul, Farah, Jawuzjan, and Parwan provinces.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

Sophisticated, time-consuming, and bureaucratic work mechanisms, procedures, and the influence of parliament members in recruitment process, and misusing contracts are among the major problems and challenges of combating corruption in the Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA).

Analysis of performance and achievements

Activities and actions taken by the Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA) in the past six months indicates that the ministry was able to complete more than half of its planned activities in a manner that meets major priorities in the ministry's anti-corruption action plan.

Major developments of the ministry in the past six month were mostly focused on establishing internal mechanisms to fight against corruption, revision and standardization of structure, establishment of an accountable structure, digitalizationof attendance and payment of salaries through bank accounts, recruitment in coordination with the Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Commission (IARCSC), monitoring safe houses and strengthening of access to information.

However, there has been a delay in registering assets of high-level officials, especially at the provincial level. In addition, while anti-corruption mechanisms have been created in the ministry, there is no report on the results and impacts of these mechanisms. Similarly, capacity-building programs have not been held on anti-corruption issues so far, and the results and impact of conducting reviews and audits in provincial directorates and monitoring of safe houses have not been reported. Finally, the Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA) has not sent supporting documents for most of the reported activities.

Ministry of Urban Development and Housing

Major priorities

Institutionalizing the civil service in the ministry to recruit staff based on meritocracy, bringing transparency in the procurement process, creating a transparent and accountable financial system in the capital and provinces of the country, efforts to provide housing for low-income and middle-income families, avoiding arbitrary construction, improving quality of construction projects, and drafting the internal audit mechanism in the country level are the main priorities of this ministry.

Major activities and achievements

- Identification and announcement of 203 vacancies on the website;
- Created an organizational structure for the development projects that includes 519 job vacancies;
- Implemented 250 remittances out of 350 in ordinary and developmental sections;
- Efforts to increase revenues more than last year at the country level;
- Internal audit efforts to discover and present views and comments about the corruption to the competent authorities;
- Setup of 10 detailed urban development plans in the provinces;
- Created an online system and management system for testing and field trials;
- Prepared two plans for urban;
- Internal audit and identification of 9 corruption cases in the ministry;
- Created invoice management system (Invoices);
- Drafted regulation on the distribution of residential apartments.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

Ministry of Urban Development and Housing titled the failure of finalizing the regulation of distributing residential apartment by the Ministry of Justice as one of the main challenges at the ministry.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The Ministry of Urban Development and Housing over the past six months of the fiscal year, has implemented 166 development projects of 781 projects through a transparent procurement process. Bringing transparency in the procurement section can develop the country's economy and the great amount of financial resource is spent through the procurement process. Also, the ministry has set up an organizational structure for 519 positions to oversee development projects. According to the first and second quarter reports, efforts have been made to increase revenues at the country level. Similarly, 85% of disbursements were transferred to the provinces with no access to the electronic payment system. Furthermore, electronic systems and plans have been

created to prevent widespread corruption and to improve the urban environment. Based on the internal audit of the ministry, from among 9 corruption cases that have been reviewed, 5 were sent to the judiciary for further legal process. In addition, the ministry has drafted the regulation on the distribution of residential apartments and sent it to the Ministry of Justice for finalization. Besides, the Ministry has also codified the policy of Anti-Corruption Committee.

Over the past six months according to Anti-Corruption Action Plan, the ministry did not published information about the administration and administrative activities as well as dissemination on bidding and contracts process.

Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock

<u>Major priorities</u>

Major priorities of the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) are strengthening control and electronic agriculture systems, standardizing services in the seed sector, horticulture, natural and research resources, securing transparency in administrative, financial and human resource departments, institutionalizing the right to access information, improving the quality control process of chemical, animal and vegetable products, rule of law and strengthening the audit and monitoring department.

Major activities and achievements

- Preparation of procedures for forms and checklists in order to collect the revenues of sold products through bank accounts;
- Establishment and implementation of PMIS Information Management System on the governmental projects of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock;
- Consolidated and submitted 407 cases of seized properties of the ministry to the judiciary and judicial organs;
- Compilation of 11 projects human resource with the directorate of Human Resource of this ministry;
- 487 contracts have been published on the website of this ministry and the National Procurement Office of which, 400 contracts have been signed;
- Distribution of 5 licenses to supply high quality vegetable spices products;
- Cases of 39 companies involved in corruption have been referred to the General Attorney Office;
- Drafted internal audit charter to audit the projects

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

Delays in submitting the disbursement recording book by the Treasury Department of the Ministry of Finance is one of the main challenges of this Ministry that has postponed the disbursement recording process. On the other hand, security problems have caused the projects to not be implemented and the seized properties of this ministry have not been fully approved.

Analysis of performance and achievements

In the past six months of the 1397 fiscal year, the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock established the PMIS system for governmental projects under the administrative office of this ministry. Through this system, which aims to bring transparency, the governmental projects can be monitored. In addition, MAIL has published 500 copies of policy, strategy, and gardening adaptive plan and has sent them to the agencies, projects, and agricultural directorates in the provinces.

The Ministry has specified areas of implementing each project and the process of implementing the projects have been monitored. Meanwhile, according to the quarter reports, this ministry had specific activities in making the process transparent and raising the revenue level.

For the internal audit, the Ministry of Agriculture compiles the Human Resource units. 11 projects have been complied and are working under one directorate of Human Resource. The internal audit office of this ministry, has introduced 39 corrupt companies to the General Attorney Office, and 407 cases of property seizure were sent to the judiciary and judicial organs. It should be noted that the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock has provided sufficient supporting documents and evidence regarding its activities to the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat.

Ministry of Public Work

<u>Major priorities</u>

The major priorities of the Ministry of Public Work are ensuring transparency and publishing information of the procurement process and contract management, reforming the internal structures of the office, strengthening the regulatory framework of the office, recruitment and human resource transparency, strengthening the process of projects monitoring, establishing a specific mechanism to handle complaints in both the center and provinces of the country.

Major activities and achievements

- Procurement and recruitment plans have been published on the Internet;
- Declared 38 construction projects;
- Collected 17,522,802 AFN revenues from various sources of the ministry;
- Registered assets of 110 employees within the ministry;
- Transparency in recruiting process of the Human Resource;
- Built a team of 10 expert legal advisors to resolve disputes in the contracted contracts;
- 30 engineers were recruited to monitor the road construction projects in the provinces;
- Monitoring and evaluating the performance of 357 employees and the transparent award and punishment system.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The challenges that the Ministry of Public Work has faced in the last past six months for combating corruption are lack of professional and technical personnel, security problems, acquisition issue of the properties on the roads, regional powerful people intervention, shortages of new technology and technical equipment, failure to implement the laws, and project contracts are being specified by some unqualified and bully contractors.

Analysis of performance and achievements

In the past six months, the Ministry of Public Works has registered assets of 110 employees, including the senior officials at this ministry. In the transparency section of the contracts, this ministry has announced 38 construction projects through social media and its website, of which 4 companies have been awarded contracts. In the near future contracts will be signed with 3 other companies, the rest are under assessment and evaluation so that the remaining project are contracted. For a transparent recruitment process, 34 jobs were announced based on open online competition, exams have been taken, and applicants who are shortlisted will be assigned to their duties shortly. In addition, 357 employees within the ministry have been monitored and

evaluated; however, the assessment result has not been reported to the Special Anticorruption Secretariat.

This ministry has provided sufficient supporting documents and evidence regarding its activities to the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat.

State Ministry for Parliamentary Affairs

Major priorities

The main priorities of the State Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs are: the creation of an effective and high-capacity office, transparency in procurement, financial management, strengthening the internal audit and transparency and accountability in the ministration.

Activities and major achievements

- Regulating and managing the performance of the human resource department based on meritocracy, encouragement and consolidating of the human resource department's infrastructure, continuously enhancing the level of professional knowledge the staffs, maintaining safe work environment, stabilising and maintaining the merit, diverse structures and effective labour force according to enacted laws and regulations of the country
- Accurate assessment of low performance staff and replacing them with the wellcommitted and experienced specialists, preventing form slow downing in performances
- Securing discipline in the performance of the departments within the Ministry

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

No specific problem were reported by State Ministry of Parliament Affairs.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The State Ministry for Parliamentary Affairs planned 9 activities during the six months that the ministry has been able to carry out its two activities. Completed activities include: the recruitment of the 50 employees in different sectors and following up the activities and functions of the ministry in administrative issues and implementation of the ministry. By completing these activities, the ministry has been able to achieve its goals of better regulating and efficiency of the human resource department, implementing the meritocracy principles, maintaining of the safe environment and securing functional discipline.

Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations

Major priorities

Reinforcing the reform and reviewing the procedures and mechanisms of work, revising the recruitment process and evaluation staffs' performance based on the principle of meritocracy and strengthening the rules over relations, managing financial, budgeting and technical affairs, and strengthening internal audits and transparency and accountability in the departments. One of the main priorities of the Ministry of Refugees and Refugees.

Major activities and achievements

- Establishing and access to information unit, hiring access to information responsible staff member and disseminating details about administration and its
- functions
- Disseminating information about the administration and its activities in accordance with the 15th provision of access to information law, in administration's official website.
- Five-year strategy and anti-corruption policy revised by the related committee
- Coordinating with the distribution of asset registration forms in accordance with the 11th provision of the disseminating and registration of assets law
- Registered assets of the 28 high officials out of 74 total
- Timely referral of allegations and cases leading to prosecution to the Attorney General's Office. Three cases were referred to the Attorney General's Office, two of which were from Zabul and Laghman provinces, and a file from Kabul province;
- Implementing recommendation of external audit, scrutiny and assessment reports (which were conducted by the Supreme Audit Office (1396) and the Independent Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Committee. The implementation of these recommendation was assured to the mentioned offices)

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation mentioned two main challenges in the implementing of their activities, which are: 1. non-governmental organizations and cooperating institutions, independently and without accountability to the MORR, helping repatriates and internal displaced persons 2. Lack of professional and specialized staff in different department.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriates has been able to enhance transparency and accountability by establishing access to the information department. Also, this Ministry has been able to draw a specific roadmap for the administration's activities and make a
solid commitment toward combating corruption by drawing a five-year strategy in making its anti-corruption policy. Timely referral of those accused of corruption to the related authority led the prevention of the corruption, assuring the rule of law in the punishing of the corruption perpetrators, and enhanced peoples' trust in the governmental apparatus. Furthermore, implementing external recommendations enhanced accountability and performing fundamental reforms in vulnerable sectors of the ministry. In the self- assessment field, this ministry mentioned that since they lack professional and specialized staff so they need external resources to do their self-assessment. Our suggestion for this Ministry is requesting cooperation of the MEC Office or any other bodies operating in the field.

B: Administrations

Office of Chief of Staff for the President

<u>Major priorities</u>

Consideration of the individual opinions in anti-corruption affairs, reviewing the activities of high ranking government officials by receiving complaints in preparing and drafting laws, reforming the process of judges' appointments, integration of all parallel anti-corruption administrations, signing cooperation agreements with a number of countries on the extradition of international offenders and the acquisition of stolen properties, and the establishment of a mechanism to combat against corruption are among major priorities of Office of Chief of Staff for the President.

- According to the Presidential Decree No. 3 dated May 12, 2018, the Ombudsman Office has been established at the Office of Chief of Staff for the President. This office is a side unit of the presidential office, which has the authority to receive complaints on corruption in relation to the activities of the presidential units and high-ranking government officials. The essential responsibility of this office after the assignment of duty is to draft the law of the Ombudsman's office, which will be completed within three months;
- Agreement with the Ministry of Justice to invite representatives of civil society to meetings on legislative documents, in order to enhance the legislative concepts and sharing the civil society representative's views on the drafting of laws. This issue has been shared with the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Second Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan that after this, civil society representatives will also be invited to meetings of the Law Committee. To create a legal base for this issue, the Law on the Procedure for the Publication and Enforcement of Legislative documents, reviewed through the Open Government Partnership, and it is currently under Tadqeeq (legislative review) at the Ministry of Justice, which after completion of the review, it will be sent to the Cabinet for approval;
- To integrate all anti-corruption administrations under the leadership of the Attorney General's Office with the exception of the Independent Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC), all departments that are involved in the fight against corruption, including the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption are abolished according to the legislative decree of H.E President and are moved under the Attorney General's Office structure.
- Working with the Financial and Banking Advisor Office to review the National Strategy for Combating Corruption: for this purpose, the report on the progress of benchmarks in the current version of the National Strategy for Combating Corruption has been prepared and shared with the Financial and Banking Advisor Office. Int one case, the representative of Special Anti-Corruption

Secretariat has participated in the adjustment or setting of new benchmarks for the National Strategy for Combating Corruption

• The Deputy (Marastial) in combating corruption affairs is established by the Presidential Decree No. 63 dated 17 February 2018 and by merging the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption with it and the creation of new positions, and the deputy has started their activities.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The Office of Chief of Staff for the President did not have any particular challenges in implementation of its activities.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The Office of Chief of staff for the President has partly progressed in implementing the specified priorities, which set out in the anti-corruption action plan. It should be noted that the role of this office is more focused on coherence and coordination, guidance and cooperation with other administrations and oversight of the implementation of anti-corruption measures by administrations. In this regard, various directorates of the office are active and each of them has had significant achievements over the past six months of fiscal year 2018.

General Directorate of Administrative Office of the President

<u>Major priorities</u>

The major priorities of the General Directorate of Administrative Office of the President include follow up of implementation of the presidential decrees and decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers, the High Council for Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption and its subordinate committees and report its results to the H.E. President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan; submitting complementary opinions to improve the contents of the draft laws, regulations and other legislative documents; analyzing, evaluation and preparing the quarterly report of the National Justice Sector Reform Program; completion and preparation of documents for the meetings of the Cabinet and the High Council for the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption and its subordinate committees for decision-making and submission of their decisions to the ministries and institutions for implementation; handling public complaints submitted for consideration by H.E President; registration, verification and validation of assets of eligible public officials; referral of cases of illegally owned assets to legal and judicial organs.

Major activities and achievements

Asset registration of government officials and employees

Establishing the Asset Registration and Verification Department at the General Directorate of Administrative Office of the President based on the Asset Registration based on the Law on Declaration and Registration of Assets of State Officials and Employees; revising the Asset Registration forms in Pashto, Dari and English, and revising the Procedures of Registration and Verification of Assets in accordance with the new law on asset registration and other laws; creating a section for asset registration on the website of the General Directorate of the Administrative Office of the President: revising and preparing electronic registration in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology; holding awareness raising workshops for the government ministries/institutions to facilitate the registration of assets; the asset registration of 9153 government officials and employees, including all high-ranking officials under Article 154 of the Constitution; preparing a list of 11,000 officials and staff members including high-ranking government officials) in accordance with the Afghan government's commitments with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Following on letters and circulars sent to government institutions and collecting the filled asset registration forms from them; prioritizing of asset registration forms for verification; and holding capacity development programs for staff of the Asset Registration and Verification Department are the major achievements in the field of asset registration of government officials and employees in the past two quarters.

Facilitate meetings of the High Council for Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption

- Preparing and submitting agendas, reports and agenda topics before the sessions of the High Council to the national and international guests, for the purpose of previous preparation and awareness of the participants;
- Preparing the approvals and tabular plans for the follow up of the High Council decisions, their publication on the website of the organization, communicating them to all relevant institutions and expert review of topics of the meeting agendas.

Professional Review of Anti-Corruption Reports

Expert review of vulnerability to corruption assessment report of the Independent Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) on Breshna Company, the international community's concerns about the establishment of Anti-Corruption Justice Center, Integrity Watch Afghanistan report on the 1397/2018 national budget, initiation of the second round self-assessment on the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and preparation of its report, the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) 1396/2017 report on the Promotion of Agriculture and Rural Development Program and the Civil Service Commission's report on the assessment of organizational capacity of the Ministry of Public Health, have been the major achievements of the General Directorate of Administrative Office of the President in the area expert review of anti-corruption reports in the past six months.

Law Committee Secretariat roles

- Preparing the agendas and meeting minutes and publishing the minutes on the website of the organization;
- During the past six months, 50 legislative proposals have been reviewed by the Law Committee of the High Council for Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption, 47 of which have been approved by the committee, and 40 legislative documents have been submitted to the High Excellency President for his endorsement, of which a total number of 37 documents have been endorsed, come into effect and have been sent to the Ministry of Justice for publishing at the national gazette.

Follow up the presidential instructions

Issuance of presidential decrees and their follow up, including: on conducting the selfassessment of Afghanistan's implementation of the provisions of the UN Convention against Corruption; issuance of a presidential decree on distribution of apartments to officials of the Anti-Corruption Justice Center; preparation of legislative proposal for solving the problems and timely handling of civil and criminal cases by legal and judicial organs; issuance of a guidance to create a plan for implementing the golden handshake program for the retirement of professional members of the legal and judicial organs by a joint committee of representatives of the legal and judicial organs; issuing a guidance to the Supreme Audit Office on sharing of documents related to the state and public properties with the Attorney General's Office and the Ministry of Justice to prevent the usurpation of state properties; preparing a list of cases of past years which have not been investigated, with the reasons of why not dealing with them by the Huquq and Government Cases Departments of the Ministry of Justice.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The lack of cooperation by some ministries/institutions and eligible officials (especially in the National Assembly) in the process of asset registration, lack of a database and a mechanism for the registration of un-moveable properties of the eligible officials/employees in the municipalities; failure to provide accurate information by public institutions and some private institutions; lack of modern equipment for documenting asset information; lack of cooperation of some institutions in the implementation of decisions of the Judicial Committee; lack of adequate professional staff for the registration of assets of officials and government employees in the government organs; and lack of a server for the electronic system of asset registration have been the major problems and challenges in implementing the AOP's anticorruption action plan.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The General Directorate of Administrative Office of the President has been able to effectively follow up the implementation of decrees, directives and decisions issued by H.E. President and the High Council for Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption and play a significant role in strengthening the reform and anti-corruption measures by the government organizations. The achievements of the General Directorate of Administrative Office of the President in the area of asset registration of government officials and employees has also been impressive and this office has been able to have the cooperation of all the ministries and institutions in this regard and change the asset registration process into a dynamic, active, comprehensive and hoping for the country.

In addition, the General Directorate of Administrative Office of the President played a significant role in maintaining coordination with the ministries and governmental and nongovernmental organizations, including the anti-corruption organizations in the country and providing them with the opportunity to get involved in the development of anti-corruption policies and regulations.

Independent Directorate of Local Governance

<u>Major priorities</u>

Strengthening accountability and transparency in the directorate, establishing the necessary legal framework and improving urban governance, individual, institutional and organizational capacity building with a focus on combating corruption and organizing supervision and strengthening the self-assessment mechanism are major priorities of the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG).

Major activities and achievements

- Establishing an administrative anti-corruption committee under the leadership of the General Director of Independent Directorate of Local Governance to monitor and oversee the implementation of directorate's anti-corruption action plan and performance of the directorate in fighting against corruption;
- Preparing guidelines and establishing customer service centers within the structure of 9 provinces' municipalities;
- Sending audit boards to 7 provinces (Samangan, Logar, Daykundi, Khost, Kandahar, Bamiyan and Baghlan);
- Improving public access to information by publishing information in accordance with article 15 of the Access to Information Law on the website of the directorate;
- Co-operation in the registration directorate's officials' and employees' assets and submission of asset registration forms to the asset registration department in the Administrative Office of the President (AOP);
- Suspension of salaries and privileges of officials and employees of the directorate in case of refusal or delay in the registration of their assets;
- Technical assistance with provincial governors in the preparation of anticorruption plans of provinces, receiving anti-corruption plans from 31 provinces and sending them to the Special Secretariat Anti-Corruption

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The most important challenges which reported by the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) is the delays in the preparation and finalization of the anticorruption action plan of the directorate. As a result, IDLG had progress on seven planned activities out of 9 for the past two quarters and had no progress in 2 activities.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The administrative anti-corruption committee has been established based on the National Strategy for Combating Corruption and work procedures of the leadership committee of the directorate. The anti-corruption committee has the responsibility for combating against corruption at the capital and local levels. As the IDLG, monitor the implementation of activities and reforms related to the combating against corruption at the local levels, creation of this committee will improve the organization and coherence of the fight against corruption at the directorate itself and local levels.

Creating a guide for customer service and creating customer service centers in the municipalities of the provinces, improved the delivery of services in municipalities and, as a result, it has improved people's access to municipality services and added to their satisfaction. In addition, sending audit boards to the provinces increased the transparency, responsibility and accountability of local offices, and it will improve the rule of law at the local levels as well.

Launching surveys of citizens' satisfaction from mayors and municipality in all provinces at specified periodic time and using its results in decision making, reforming and enforcing systems and procedures for the provision of urban services, are the two primary initiatives planned for the second quarter of fiscal year 2018, which will be implemented by the IDLG in the next quarter.

Attorney General's Office

Major priorities

Reforming the office and strengthening accountability, increasing the effectiveness and capacity of anti-corruption performances, preventing the of national capital, creating safety for the legitimate assets of individuals, accelerate the process of investigating corruption cases and preventing waste of time, preventing breaking the law and drawing the satisfaction of citizens, convicts, and detainees, increasing executive capacity of the office and building mechanisms to protect the privacy and security of the whistleblowers of corruption cases are among the major priorities of the Attorney General's Office (AGO).

- Amendment of the Law on Structure and Functions of AGO, in order to create a legal base for the establishment of the Deputy Attorney General for Anti-Corruption affairs, and reviewing the establishment of the Attorney General's Office structure in order to prevent organizational inflation and task interference and its approval by H.E. President. Based on the new structure, by creating a Deputy for Anti-Corruption affairs, the AGO's Anti-Corruption Directorate, the AGO's Anti-Corruption and National Directorate of Security Employees' works crime Directorate, and AGO's Anti-Corruption Directorate for soldiers' crimes, have come under the authority of this deputy. In addition, the structure of the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption has also been merged with a Deputy for Anti-Corruption affairs (Marastiali), and the Directorate for the Abolition of Illicit Property and the Directorate for this deputy.
- Establishing a Human Resources Information Management System, as up to now, the information of 3,600 prosecutors and staff members are registered in it;
- Preparing a recruitment procedure for prosecutors and administrative staff, which will happen after they pass a judicial stage course through an open competition process. Replacement and relocating of prosecutors and administrative staffs are happening based on their expertise, commitment, work experience, and open merit-based examinations, which helped increase the percentage of women in the Attorney General's Office from 3% to 21%. Since the beginning of the current fiscal year to date, around 200 prosecutors, including 93 eligible women have been recruited, and482 of 1,200 recent applicants for prosecutors' positions are being evaluated.. In addition, the Attorney General's Office has recruited 30 qualified female as managers for elimination of violence against women departments in the provinces and the capital;
- Establishing a department for professional training to enhance the capacity of prosecutors, with planshold introductory training programs on corruption cases

in the courts and materials related to corruption crimes, including the penal code for prosecutors in the next six months;

- Preparing and arranging Terms of Reference (ToR) for all prosecutors and establishing an evaluation system to evaluate the annual performance of prosecutors. The department for evaluation prosecutors' performance has been established in the Attorney General's Office structure,
- Distribution of asset registration forms to officials and employees of the office, collecting and sending 1,042 registration forms of assets of the officials, directors, prosecutors and administrative staff of the Attorney General's Office, to the asset registration department at the Administrative Office of the President. In addition, the Attorney General's Office has prepared a conflict of interest form for prosecutors;
- Developing the case management system in all provinces of the country, registering 6,011 cases over the past six months in the system, and adding of two positions in the cases management offices in all provinces to expedite the registration of cases;
- Direct meetings of Attorney General with people each week on Mondays, which over the past six months, the Attorney General has met with 2,225 people and has handled their complaints. In addition, to restrict and prevent direct contact of prosecutors with people, the reception and information center has been created at the Attorney General's Office, which provides direct, live and interactive communication between the office and the people;
- Establishment of Attorney General's Offices in 34 districts and dispatch of 52 prosecutors to these districts;
- Implementation of profitable retirement mechanism that has led to retirement of 150 staff of the office;
- Ratification of press policy and cooperation with civil society and the media, in order to secure relations with mass media and civil society and to support their approaches and activities in the fight against corruption;
- Implementation of an electronic system of attendance that up to now, about 850 prosecutors and employees, of Justice and Judicial Center, and AGO' prosecution office for counter narcotics use this system, the aforementioned system will be implemented in all central offices by the end of this year;
- According to a report from the Anti-Corruption Justice Counter (ACJC) for Heavy Crimes, over the past six months, the Center received 207 cases of corruption, including 123 civil cases and 84 military cases. Of the 123 civil cases, after enough investigation, 15 cases have been submitted to the relevant authorities due to lack of authority in addressing the issue and 108 other cases are under investigation by the capital prosecutors. Under investigation cases, includes 9 embezzlement, 5 misuse of duty, 4 money laundering, 5 cases of fraud, 13 property seizure and 2 violations of legal jurisdiction. In the Military Attorney General, 51 cases were handed down to the relevant authorities after the

preliminary conduct due to lack of authority, and 33 cases are under investigation by the Military Attorney General's Office. The cases under investigation of the Military Attorney General's Office of the Center for Justice includes 12 cases of embezzlement, misuse of duty, deception, and violations of the rules of the military, 3 cases of betrayal, 1 property seizure and 1 bribe acquisition.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The Attorney General's Office provided the following reasons for being unable to carry out the activities in accordance to the action plan, over the past six months. No funding for educational programs by donors, lack of cooperation of the relevant departments to establish a mechanism for simplifying the handling of corruption cases, also, the mechanism of rewards and punishment of employees working in the field of fighting corruption, due to the delay in the adoption of the Whistleblower law.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The Anti-Corruption Activities of the Attorney General's Office over the past six months have been more focused on adjusting laws and regulations, revise and reforming the establishment Deputy for Anti-Corruption affairs and new units based on the needs of anti-corruption administration, capacity building of prosecutors, reforming recruitment processes and institutionalizing merit based recruitment, establishing a human resources management and information system, registering the assets of officials, directors, prosecutors and employees of the office, developing a case management system, addressing complaints of people by the Attorney General, establishing a reception and information center to facilitate the access of people to the Attorney General's Office, and increasing the presence of prosecutors in the secure districts and the implementation of a centralized electronic attendance system. Activities, which are being done in these areas, will improve the effectiveness, coordination and organization of anti-corruption activities by the Attorney General's Office, thus strengthening the punitive activities of the fight against corruption and, consequently, the rule of law in the country.

It is important to be mention that the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat in the second quarter received a statistical report on the activities of the Justice and Judicial Center. In general, the lack of comprehensive analysis of corruption cases and statistical reports on the handling of corruption offenses by other departments of the Attorney General's Office are a major gap in the reporting of the fight against corruption by the Attorney General's Office. In this regard, the Attorney General's Office has reported that by registering corruption cases in the case management system, after that, statistical reports on the fight against corruption will be prepared by the Attorney General's Office and will be published quarterly.

National Procurement Authority

<u>Major priorities</u>

Providing and enhancing the transparency of procurement in regard to respecting the principles of trusteeship, strengthening and enhancing oversight mechanisms and monitoring of contracts progress, internal audit and law enforcement, strengthening financial management and merit based recruitment, strengthening access to information in accordance with the law on access to information and open contract partnership, and strengthening partnerships with stakeholders for reform are among the major priorities of the National Procurement Authority.

- Developing an anti-corruption strategy in public procurement for reform and preventing corruption in public procurement;
- Strengthening the resources and capacity of the National Procurement Authority to improve the capacity of ministries/administrations to collect, publish, store, access and share contract information and implement a transparent government procurement system;
- Conduct comprehensive procurement programs, including transparency and contracting issues for newly recruited procurement servants, and training programs on ethical charter for National Procurement Authority employees;
- Establishment of a national procurement institute and contract with (EUROSUPPORT) to develop curriculum development, capacity building for trainees, and development of its strategic documents;
- Establish and strengthen a monitoring system for contract progress in line with open contract participation standards by creating a new portal for publishing procurement contracts and progress in contract enforcement and facilitating public oversight of contract progress;
- Filling conflict of interest forms by the National Procurement Authority staff to prevent conflicts of interest in their work affairs;
- Arrangement of observers' participation in the meetings of the National Procurement Commission in order to increase the number of observers in these meetings;
- Establishment of a complaint handling mechanisms at ministries/administrations' procurement units through the installation of complaints boxes at 59 units and the establishment of a complaints handling mechanism;
- Vulnerable assessment of areas exposed to potential risks of corruption in public procurement;
- Evaluating capacity of four procurement institutions to certify their capacity;
- Sending out 7 cases of corruption indictment for prosecution for Attorney General's Office;

• Appointing an information officer responsible to facilitate the response to requests for information forms

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The National Procurement Authority did not face any challenges on implementing of their anti-corruption action plan over the past six months. All activities of this administration had progress based on their action plan.

Analysis of performance and achievements

Establishing an anti-corruption strategy in public procurement, reforming the public procurement system and preventing corruption in the country's procurement processes through reforming structures; frameworks and work processes and improving the capacity of procurement units of ministries/administrations with will strategically facilitate improvements. Holding procurement training programs for newly recruited employees in ministries/administrations have completed the accreditation process of procurement units, and it enable them to work professionally, in accordance with the laws, regulations and standards of transparency in the procurement of activities. Compilation, maintenance, access, and sharing of contract information is also part of the curriculum of procurement training programs, which will help to strengthen the capacity of procurement employees to implement a transparent procurement system in a sustainable manner.

The implementation of the non-conflict principle of interest in the National Procurement Authority have enhanced the transparency, integrity and trustworthiness of the staff of the authority while working with ministries/administrations, especially in conducting monitoring, and evaluation activities. Establishment and strengthening of amonitoring system for the progress of contracts and the creation of a portal for publishing procurement contracts, publishing details of contracts, enhanced their implementation. This system provides transparency to contracts in accordance with international standards and commitments of the Afghan government. These activitie, also provide a framework for public oversight of contracts. Vulnerability assessment of areas exposed to potential risks of corruption in public procurement, which is done through the review of policies, procurement laws, and internal guidelines of the ministries/administrations, have already progressed 70% and will be completed in the next guarter (third). Similarly, the capacity evaluation of four procurement departments of ministries/administrations (Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, Ministry of Public Works and Da Afghanistan Breshan Sherkat) is completed and their procurement capacity will be confirmed soon.

In addition, identifying and reporting corruption cases to the Attorney General's Office will, in turn, play an important role in strengthening sound financial management, law enforcement on offenders, corrupts and the rule of law. Finally, the strengthening of information dissemination from the activities of the authority and the task of improving

the flow of information and responding to requests for information by the authority, thereby enhanced the culture of transparency, accountability, and finally, strengthened the relationship between citizens and authority.

Supreme Audit Office

Major priorities

Reforming of the organizational structure (Tashkel) of the office based on duties and responsibilities, revision of legislative documents (Supreme Audit Office Law) in order to fit the responsibilities and authorities of the office, professional capacity building and improving the audit process, and the participation of civil society and the media in the audit processes for the sake of transparency in inspections and audits, are major priorities of the Supreme Audit Office.

- The Supreme Audit Office (SAO) Law has been reviewed in accordance with the benchmarks of the National Strategy for Combating Corruption, in order to strengthen the Supreme Audit Office, and to improve its performance. But to further strengthen the law, it has been revised for a second time. The law is now sent to Ministry of Justice's law committee for further work. These revisions are being done to better match with the international criteria of the Supreme Audit Institutions;
- The Supreme Audit Office has amended its administrative structure according to the requirement and needs of the office, in order to specialize the departments of the administration. In the fiscal year 2018, it has added 38 new positions in its structure, which is approved by the H.E. President. By adding these positions, 10 employees will be recruited through Capacity Building for Results (CBR) program and 21 professionals and specialists will be contracted through the World Bank project. So far, recruitment of 6 positions has been approved and a suggestion for recruiting 15 more contract employees have been sent to the World Bank.
- In order to establish the necessary administrative structures and finalize the public participation mechanism in the audit process in consultation with civil society, three meetings have been held for finalization of the mechanism with civil society in coordination with the Secretariat of the Open Government Partnership of Afghanistan (OGPA) and its implementation will begin soon. In order to manage public participation in the audit process, three positions have been added to the structure of fiscal year 2018 and have been approved by H.E. President, and five employees have been sent abroad for professional training;
- The mechanism for tracking the findings of audits is reviewed and modified. The Supreme Audit Office has been standardized, and coordination with the ministries/administrations for the implementation of recommendations has been improved. It is important to be mentioned that during the past six months, the implementation of audit recommendations has been tracked in 69 offices;
- To support the directorate of auditing enterprises and organizations, in order to increase the number of financial audits in the authorities under audit, the head of

enterprises position has been announced, and in its structure, a position for an expert of audit affairs has been approved. The office has submitted candidate documents for the post of head of enterprises to the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Services Commission (IARCSC) for approval. Also, a training program for the staff of the directorate of auditing enterprises and organizations have been included in the training plan of the office;

- Five employees have been introduced to China, Singapore, and the Philippines for capacity building programs and to attend courses and master's programs;
- A system for transferring domestic travel accommodations money for auditors and office staff to their bank accounts has been created, instead of paying money physically to provide transparency;
- Increased monitoring of audit teams through the dispatching of monitoring experts in central and provincial authorities, overseeing the physical presence of audit teams in the provinces through telephone;
- In the preparation and needed coordination with the asset registration department for initiating the process of registering the assets of employees, in the first six month of fiscal year 2018, assets of 133 auditors were filed and submitted to the Administrative Office if the President (AOP)
- In the area of strengthening the coordination with competent officials of the institutions under audit in order to improve transparency and promotion of professional affairs, the establishment of a qualified staffing board to review the audit reports of branches and sectors, meetings were held with the conclusion accountant group (Group of Hesab-e-Qataia), the Minister of Finance and its associated authorities.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The Supreme Audit Office has reported that the World Bank had previously pledged to the (SAO) office that it would provide higher education opportunities for different levels of office employees, but has recently rejected this issue. The Supreme Audit Office will submit convincing views to the World Bank on the necessity of the matter.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The activities and achievements of the Supreme Audit Office (SAO) over the past six months shows that certain improvements and actions have been taken to comply with the priorities set forth in the anti-corruption action plan. Revision of the Supreme Audit Office law, modification and amendment of the office structure based on the requirements of the office's work, establishing the necessary administrative structures, and finalization of the public participation mechanism in the audit process in consultation with civil society and follow up on the implementation of audit recommendations in 69 administrations are part of major achievements of the Supreme Audit Office (SAO) in the first six months of fiscal year 2018. As it can be seen, the work of Supreme Audit Office over the past six months were more focused on strengthening the office, providing transparency and public participation in the audit processes, and strengthening the coordination and follow up of the implementation of audit recommendations conducted by the Supreme Audit Office. However, the reform of Supreme Audit Office has not been completed so far, and in regard to hiring of 150-trained auditors, 38 grades have been sent for approval of H.E President, which these positions are in the structure of 2018.

Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Services Commission

Major priorities

The major priorities of the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Services Commission are include, public announcement of all vacancies in the civil services of government ministries/institutions; ensuring recruitment of civil servants based on competition and merit, revitalizing the civil service training center and its curriculum, accreditation of general functions of the ministries (procurement, financial management and human resource development), identifying, maintaining and promoting honest and diligent employees and introducing an awards program to appreciate the individual and collective achievements of civil servants in the fight against corruption and creating complaints and opinions mechanisms for citizens and civil servants in the Civil Service Commission.

- Public announcement of 697 procurement positions of the civil service institutions, holding mass exams, review of documents, conducting interviews for the second and third ranks positions and introducing newly hired employees to the National Procurement Institute for a three-month procurement training;
- Identifying, public announcements and holding mass exams for recruitment of 9,000 civil service posts (ranks 5 & 6), and completing the recruitment process in all provinces over the country;
- Public announcement and holding mass exams for recruitment of 8,000 teachers and 700 teacher training courses in 34 provinces of the country;
- Amending the civil servants law to institutionalize transparent civil service system;
- Monitoring over the implementation of laws and regulations in the recruitment and human resources practices of the ministries/institutions;
- Introducing a national awards program to appreciate the group and individual achievements of civil servants in combating corruption;
- Revitalizing of the Civil Service Training Center and its curriculum to train 4,000 newly recruited civil servants on anti-corruption, public policy and gender equity;
- Establishing a mechanism for receiving citizens' complaints through weekly meetings of the Leadership Board of the Civil Service Commission;
- Amending the appointment procedures and inclusion of provisions regarding the presence of members of civil society and media for overseeing the recruitment processes;
- Establishing a call center to provide services and information to citizens and preventing corruption.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The Civil Service Commission has not reported any particular problem in implementing their anti-corruption action plan in the past six months, with the exception of the delays in the process of mass exams of the 5th and 6th ranking civil service posts in Kabul due to the simultaneity of the Kankor [university entrance] exam of higher education institutions and the lack of availability of the biometrics machines. As a result, the collective exams for the mentioned positions in Kabul were held at the beginning of the third quarter.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The Civil Service Commission, by modifying the Civil Servants Law, has been able to put deputy ministers' positions in the civil service system and the appointments to these positions were selective previously. By amending the appointment procedures and incorporating provisions civil society and the media monitoring of the recruitment processes, it has been able to reduce fraud and corruption in appointments and recruitment processes. By establishing a Call Center for the provision of services and information to the citizens, as well as holding weekly meetings of the Leadership Board of the Civil Service Commission with clients to receive and handle their complaints and problems, increasing public confidence in the civil service system. In addition, the Civil Service Commission has been able to prevent people from interfering in recruitment exams by conducting collective exams in various civil service institutions, in the form of Concor exams and using biometric registration of applicants, and the process of scoring and evaluating exams' results using special machines, ensuring the transparency of the collective exams processes.

Also, the regulatory and oversight roles of the Civil Service Commission, which is done to ensure the legality of the activities and observance of the laws in the recruitment processes and human resource management of the ministries/institutions, also helps to identify and correct irregularities and violations and to improve the ministries/institutions' performance in these areas. Similarly, the public announcement of procurement positions of ministries and recruiting individuals through a free and competitive process has led to the accreditation of the ministries/institutions' procurement function, and the revitalization of the civil service training center and its curriculum has changed the culture of civil service and provision of civil services in the country.

High Oversight Board on Senior Security Officials Appointments

Major priorities

The major priorities of High Oversight Board on Senior Security Officials Appointments are supervising the process of recruiting high-ranking security and defense officials, simplifying the process of asset registration of officials and civil servants, supporting the prosecution of criminal cases and offenders of corruption, strengthening the internal audit at the office, and office accountability in terms of providing assessment reports, and external reviews and evaluation to strengthen the statistical basis of the office.

Major activities and achievements

- Evaluated and assessed 263 people in the appointment section, and 86 others in the promotion section at the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Defense and the National Security Council;
- Established a data bank for senior security officials who are going to be assigned for key positions in the future.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

Major challenges of the High Oversight Board on Senior Security Officials Appointments office are lack of capacity of the defense and security candidates for vacant positions, lack of authorities' cooperation to boost the data bank, absence of transparency in recruiting process of defense and security officers, and unreliability on implementation of vacancies, appointments, and promotions.

Analysis of performance and achievements

According to the president decree No. 733, dated on 26/10/1397 the High Oversight Board on Senior Security Officials Appointments has been established within the framework of National Security Council office, which is active since last six months. Over this period, it has reviewed the CVs of those who assigned in to security positions, and it was sent the information to the National Security Council for the approval of President. Hence, CVs of those who are assigned for the appointments and promotion were reviewed are as following:

Ministry of National Defense: The CVs of 89 individuals in the appointment department including 37 generals and 52 colonels, and 37 individuals in the promotion department including 12 generals and 25 colonels have been investigated.

Ministry of Interior Affairs: The CVs of 171 individuals in the appointment department including 80 generals, 91 colonels, and 45 individuals in the promotion department including 32 generals and 13 colonels have been investigated.

National Security Council: 3 people in the appointment department including 2 generals, 1 colonel, and 3 individuals in the promotion departments have been investigated.

The department is not sure if the recommended recruitments and promotion are going to implement or not. The main activities of this board are to bring transparency in recruitment process, and to monitor and evaluate the performance of the defense and security officers. However, this board is concern about the lack of cooperation from the security organs in appointing process. This office has not provided supporting documents and evidence regarding its activities to the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat.

National Security Council

Major priorities

Strengthening transparency in administrative and financial affairs is the main priority of the National Security Council (NSC) office to combat corruption.

Major activities and achievements

- Identification of vacancies and recruitment of 42 employees based on open competition;
- Conducted four capacity building programs to 100 employees of this office;
- Registered the assets of 46 qualified National Security Council employees.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The Office of the NSC did not report any specific challenge or problem regarding the implementation of Anti-Corruption Action Plan.

Analysis of performance and achievements

In the past six months, the NSC has created a committee for a transparent recruitment process of 114 empty vacancies, of which 42 employees have been hired through open competition process. In terms of capacity building, four training courses have been conducted for 100 employees to enhance their administrative and service sectors skills. 3 female employees are introduced to the opportunity to continue their bachelor's and master's studies. Moreover, NSC has registered assets of 46 eligible employees and sent it to the Administrative Office of the President for further process. Since the NSC is one of the most important security sectors, it is expected that this office will do much more activities to combat corruption.

It is important to be noted that, this office has not submitted sufficient supporting documents and evidence regarding its activities to the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat. Furthermore, the National Security Council has only reported about the recruiting and financial issues in the Anti-Corruption Action Plan; thus, this office has not highlighted any serious solutions to combat corruption in the security sector.

Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitution

Major priorities

Strengthening transparency and public awareness on anti-corruption activities of the commission, Co-operation in the judicial prosecution of cases and accused-persons of corruption, strengthening statistical basis of the commission of vulnerability to corruption, increasing effectiveness of the internal control system, accountability of the commission in regard to audit reports, external evaluations, enhancement of procurement department's transparency and regulating of human resources affairs are among the major priorities of Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitution.

Major activities and achievements

- Helping registration of assets for 16 senior officials and staff members of the commission to ensure the rule of law and prevent corruption;
- Implementing five recommendations of audit financial statements from years (2012-2015) by the Supreme Audit Office on the remaining of supplies in storeroom to increase transparency and reform the commission;
- Reviewing of two contracts by the internal audit department to determine the legality of the purchases, in order to ensure transparency in contracts and to secure the interests of government;
- Reviewing of 50 purchases of commission and 15 remittances for transparency in purchases and effective use of the commission's budget;
- Processing of 5 contracts according to the procurement rules, which 4 contracts has been signed;
- Adhering the regulation and procedure of maintenance of vehicle fuel in the contract of 60,000 liters of fuel that has enabled the maintenance and proper use of the Commission's vehicles;
- Public announcement of 16 vacancies using an electronic recruiting system the for filling of positions, securing transparency in recruitment and adhering the principle of meritocracy and completing the recruitment of the 3 lower rank position and one high rank position through the CBR process.
- Introducing of 13 commission staff to foreign educational scholarships in accordance with the commission's procedure for improving the capacity of staff;
- Providing exceptional privileges for 4 employees (which two of them are running now), according to the plan to encourage and support cadres of the commission.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

Out of 17 planned activities for the last two quarters, the Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitution has been able to complete eight activities, five of its activities have been implemented, and 4 activities have not started due to lack of commission's structure (Tashkel).

Analysis of performance and achievements

Registration of assets of high ranking and senior officials and officials of the commission, implementing recommendations of financial reviews by Supreme Audit Office in 2012-2015, reviewing purchases and remittances, public announcement of vacancies and recruiting employees through the Processes of CBR, sending some employees out of the country for capacity building, identification of employees with good performance, and implementation of exceptional privileges to encourage and support them, are part of activities and achievements of the Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitution over the past six months.

It should be noted that the Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of Constitution, due to shortage of structure (Tashkel) in the internal audit department was not able to complete the activity of reviewing the budget for fiscal year 2018. The commission was not able to complete other activities such as allocations and expenditures; audit and review of administrative and professional departments of the commission; and the introducing of internal audit staff to capacity building programs.

Supreme Court

Major priorities

Reforming administrative and judicial appointments, amending and reviewing the laws in accordance with the current laws of the country, increasing the capacity of judges and administrative staff, public awareness, monitoring and access of citizens to justice, holding open trails, handling complaints and transparency and accountability are part of major priorities of the Supreme Court in fighting against corruption.

- Over the past six months, 223 judges have been appointed in cadre positions by High Committee for Judicial Appointment in order to improve the judges' appointment procedures, and securing justice, and the High Administrative Commission for the improvement of administrative affairs, has appointed and recruited about 225 professional administrative staff.
- In creation of a database to distinguish between current and abolished laws, and identification of other regulations, which needs revision; the revision of the identified laws will be done in order to comply with current enacted laws;
- Proposed amendment in the Civil Servants Law On "the recruitment of civil servants of the Judiciary departments by the administrative department of the Judiciary with the technical assistance of the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Services Commission"
- Preparing the General Directorate of Legislation and Studies' regulation, review of the Judicial Audit Office regulation, and drafting the reporting instruction from the judges activities in cooperation with the Judicial Audit Office, and the Directorate General for Human Resources;
- Holding a training program on the new administrative system of the courts' regulation for 245 editorial and other staff of the Supreme Court and appeal courts in 34 provinces of the country;
- Establishing the spokesperson office, judicial publications including Qaza magazine, Mizan Gazette and news bulletin, and website in the English language, publishing the final and definitive verdicts of the courts during the last six months, and the jurisprudence of the courts in order to strengthen public awareness on the activities of the judiciary;
- Prevention of judges' appointments outside the judicial training (Stazh-e-Qaza), and ensuring the appointments are conducted in a transparent and competitive manner in accordance with article 81 of the law on the structure and competencies of courts;
- Expansion courts' activities in 5 secure districts. keeping the courts' doors open throughout the country, receive and handle the people's complaints by the Supreme Court and the Judiciary Surveillance Administration and Complaints Commissions of the capital and provinces of the country, establishing an

electronic complaints office within Judiciary Surveillance Administration to facilitate the registration of complaints by people and to receive complaints from complaints boxes are part of other major actions of the Supreme Court over the past six months to provide judicial services throughout the country;

- Holding open trails in accordance with the article 11 of the law on the structure and competencies of courts, as over the past six months about 1,492 open trails sessions has been held in 32 provinces of country, which only Zabul and Nuristan Provinces did not have public trails
- Asset registration of directors, officials, judges, and high employee officials in Kabul and provinces

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

Lack of security is a major challenge of the Supreme Court for activating the courts in insecure districts, which the Supreme Court were able to open courts in five new districts. In addition, lack of funds, lack of domiciles for judges in the capital and provinces, lack of safety for judges, lack of professional youth cadres and staff and challenges in paying salaries of administrative staff of the judiciary are being reported as major problems and challenges in implementation of the anti-corruption action plan by the Supreme Court.

Analysis of performance and achievements

Major activities and progresses of the Supreme Court in the fight against corruption over the past six months was more focused on reforming the judiciary and civil servants' appointment mechanisms, implementing the principle of recruitment on the basis of merit reforming regulations and procedures, capacity building of judges and editorials, strengthening access to justice through public trails and facilitating the presence and supervision of the public and the community from judicial sessions through holding open trails (s

s over the past two quarters more than 10,000 people observed public trails), strengthening public awareness and access to information about the performance and activities of the Supreme Court through the publication of information on website, strengthening the case management system and secure electronic archiving documents and debits, strengthening complaints handling mechanisms, and registering assets of officials, judges and administrative staff.

Revision of civil and criminal laws and regulations in order to improve the prosecution of corrupt individuals and the seizure of illegally acquired assets, completion of the training of judges and editorials, extension of open trails to all provinces, and the determination of the date for holding stage program test, publishing reports from the implementation of complaints mechanisms and complaints procedures and increasing the membership of this committee are among the goals and benchmarks of the National Strategy for Combating Corruption, which is related to the Supreme Court Office, and will be completed in the coming quarters.

State Ministry for Disaster Management

<u>Major priorities</u>

Strengthening the coordination system, enhancing transparency in finance affairs, combating the acquisition of illicit assets, and restoring citizens' trust on the government's determination to fight corruption are major priorities of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) or State Ministry for Disaster Management.

- Committees and structures of disaster management have been established in 32 districts and they have been instrumental in facilitating the response to incidents. Meanwhile, the draft of revising the role and responsibilities of stakeholders in the strategy documents and the national incidents management plan, has been prepared and shared with the stakeholders for consultation;
- The employees' salary payments are being done through bank accounts, which now employees can receive their salaries in a transparent manner without any waste of time. The registration of assets of the Board of Directors, 6 central directors and 34 provincial directors are completed, and the assets registrations of other senior officials at office are ongoing.
- With regard to the preparation of a comprehensive plan for the use of emergency funds, only the use of budget utilization in small and urgent projects is currently being prepared and implemented;
- The task of assessing requirements, drafting a procurement plan, assigning a procurement team, setting up a request for proposals and offers board, bidding and evaluation team is completed, which it made the procurement system more transparent and more legal;
- For the establishment of a state monitoring committee under the directorate of cleaning minefields, to monitor the implementation of mine cleaning activities, consultative meetings have been launched with stakeholders and donors;
- Work on finalization of the handbook for distribution of funds with the participation of people's representatives for the victims of the incidents and the process of blocking and collecting goods at the offices and recording it in the information bank of authority has been started;
- The process of documenting incidents from the survey process is ongoing. Evaluation and addressing to problems of those who is affected by disaster and its reflection through the media is ongoing. In addition, the process of urgent assessments of the damage in partnership with local representatives who suffered from the incidents has begun and it is ongoing.
- Establishing a monitoring system for activities in the administration and strengthening of the internal audit and establishment of complaints box, which

the complaints box has been activated in the office and a monitoring system on recruitment has been set up and started its activities.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing action plan

Security problems in some districts, lack of resources and capacity in disaster management, lack of minimum educational centers in the field of disaster management in the country, lack of active management structures in the coordination and management of disaster at the district levels, failure of existing management structures to respond in handling all of the incidents in Afghanistan are major problems and challenges Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) in the first six months of fiscal year 1397.

Analysis of performance and achievements

In spite of having mentioned challenges, Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) in the past six months was able to implement all planned activities based on the action plan, except for the registration of assets of all officials and employees of the authority. This activity is improved based on this authority's action plan.

Digitalization of the salary payment system for the staff, asset registration of officials and senior staff, revision of the roles and responsibilities of the relevant stakeholders in the strategy documents and the national management plan, assessment of the annual requirements of the authority, formulation of the procurement plan, setting up the procurement team and the request for proposals and offers board, bidding and evaluation based on the occupancy of their members, have been the major activities and achievements of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) over the past six months.

Afghanistan Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Corporation

Major priorities

The major priorities of Afghanistan Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Corporation include strengthening finance and administration affairs, strengthening revenue collection affairs, strengthening procurement affairs, improving internal audits and accountability, strengthening human resources and access to information in the office.

- Preventing the exchange of cash in collection of revenues and payment of expenditures; now all revenues are collected through a single bank account which has improved transparency in collecting revenues and payment of expenses;
- Use of QuickBooks or other software for recording company information and transactions using a double-entry accounting system that will minimize account errors and l promote transparency in revenue collection;
- Preventing the use of public transport vehicles for personal purposes by installing a GPS tracker system s and comparing the information recorded therein with the information contained in the travel log books as well as creating a log book for recording internet usage;
- Beginning the implementation of retirement of eligible employees for the fiscal year 1397, from which the retirement of 15 employees have been completed;
- Establishing a staff performance evaluation committee for promotion, which conducts performance evaluations and promotion of employees step by step and up to now has completed the review of the records/profiles of 104 employees of the corporation;
- Developing an anti-corruption policy that defines the approach and policy of the institution regarding the fight against corruption;
- Public announcement of 60 vacant positions and completion of the recruitment process of 48 employees through free competition, including procurement, media and finance department of Herat Zone, which creates job opportunities for community members and attract people based on merit and rules;
- Establishing an electronic payroll system for employees for paying their salaries through bank accounts and launching an electronic attendance system at the general director of second-level administrative units, which will create transparency in the presence and absence of employees and will enhance integrity in the organization; and
- Inspecting the financial, administrative, technical and operations affairs of the northern and its second-level administrative departments, to enhance transparency in their affairs.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

Non-payment of the water tariff by public and sacred places, lack of timely payment of water tariff by ministries/government institutions, high electricity costs, lack of cooperation by user organizations and security of the water resources, protection of water supply infrastructure have been the major problems and challenges of the Afghanistan Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Corporation over the past six months.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The Afghanistan Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Corporation has been able to complete all planned activities, based on the percentages specified in their Anti-Corruption Action Plan, and no activities have been faced any delays during the past six months.

Creating a single bank account to collect revenues, as currently, all revenues are collected through that account; installing financial software or QuickBooks for recording company information and transactions using double-entry system of accounting; preventing the use of state-owned vehicles by the authorities for their personal matters by installing GPS trackers in vehicles and using Travel Log Books, public announcement of 60 vacant positions and completion of recruitment of people for 48 offices and completion of recruitment of procurement personnel to improve procurement affairs, retirement of 15 employees, creation of a committee for evaluating staff work performance and reviewing documents and work records of 104 employees and establishing electronic payroll system for the payment of staff salaries and electronic attendance system are the major activities and achievements of this office in the past two quarters.

Capital Region Independent Development Authority

Major priorities

The major priorities of the Central Region Independent Development Authority are include implementing continued reforms and improving and establishing work procedures and mechanisms, reviewing the recruitment process and conducing staff performance appraisals based on merit and superiority of rules over relations, strengthening and further professionalization of internal audit, ensuring sound management of finance, budget and technical affairs, and promoting transparency and accountability in the organization affairs.

Major activities and achievements

- Establishing a Human Resources Policy: by establishing this policy, the office will have a specific human resources policy, and the recruitment process, performance appraisals, internal staff code of conduct and complaints handling processes will be better managed;
- Review and evaluation of staff performance evaluation criteria for each position (differentiating managerial and non-managerial level) and modification of employee's annual performance evaluation forms that will lead to a more precise diagnosis of poor performers, identification of staff training needs and the replacement of poor performer staff by qualified and committed professionals.
- Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan
- The Capital Region Independent Development Authority has been faced with human resources shortage in implementation of their Anti-Corruption Action Plan over the past six months.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

Capital Region Independent Development Authority has faced of human resources in the past six months.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The Capital Region Independent Development Authority, with the relative implementation of their anti-corruption action plan has had the following achievements in the past six months: by reviewing the regulations and bills, the responsibilities and competencies of the work divisions are distinguished and identified, and this prevents overlapping of functions and improves coordination between the work divisions. By creating the human resource policy, the office's human resource management and efficiency is improved, its legal basis is strengthened and employees are recruited on the basis of merit and the replacement of relations with rules in the recruitment process. The level of professional knowledge of employees is raised steadily, the safe work environment is created and a diverse, competent and effective workforce is emerged in accordance with the spirit of the laws and regulations of the country.

Also, this policy helps to identify poor performer employees more accurately, identify their educational needs, and provides the ground for replacing poor performer staff with well-trained and committed professionals, and ultimately preventing slowdowns and delays in the daily work. Moreover, this policy facilitates staff performance evaluation based on different categories of positions, and with the preparation and adoption of the Capital Region Economic Development Strategy, the management of development projects will also get more organized.

It should be noted that the major progress made by the Capital Region Independent Development Authority in the implementation of their Anti-Corruption Action Plan during the first six months of the fiscal year has been in their first priority, while this office has had minor progress in implementation of their three other priorities.

Afghanistan Railway Authority

Major priorities

The major anti-corruption priorities of this organization include designing the organizational structure of the office based on the main functions of the organization, getting presidential approval for the new organization structure, public announcement and recruitment of individuals for the new positions, increasing transparency and accountability in the organization, strengthening the monitoring of the implementation and maintenance of development projects, strengthening the office's information systems strengthening the internal audit, increasing the accountability of the office in relation to audit reports and conducting an external or internal risk or vulnerability to corruption assessment.

Major activities and achievements

- Preparing and getting the approval for the new organizational structure of the office and public announcement and recruitment of individuals for the newly created positions, under the supervision of the Civil Service Commission;
- Disseminating information about the organization and its activities in accordance with the Article 15 of the Access to Information Law, which include a brief introduction to the office and its functions, the Annual Work Plan, the annual Anti-Corruption Action Plan, the list of completed and ongoing projects, announcement of jobs and procurement projects on the office website and the appointment of the media officer as the Information Officer of the office;
- Development of electronic systems, including communication internet networks and a mass media outlet for information sharing purposes;
- Assigning supervision teams for projects maintenance in the fields of railroad infrastructure and pavements, office buildings and loading and unloading, continuous maintenance of all railways and related facilities, and monitoring the status of collars, locomotives and other machinery;
- Reviewing and evaluating reports from project maintenance activities submitted by field engineers, to ensure that projects are implemented effectively.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The Afghanistan Railways Authority is a newly established organization and its organizational structure has been set recently. The agency has reported a lack of professional staff and being a newly created organization as reasons for slow implementation and progress in some of their planned activities and asset registration of senior officials by their organization.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The Afghanistan Railways Authority has included 21 activities in its Anti-Corruption Action Plan for the fiscal year 1397, which has made progress in a number of these activities over the past six months. It should be noted that the Afghan Railways Authority has not sent evidence and supporting documents for some of the completed activities, including the appointment of their Information Officer and publishing details about him/her, in accordance with their action plan.

In addition, the publication of information on the activities of the office is also not in full compliance with the instances mentioned in Article 15 of the Access to Information Law, which are required to be published, and it is necessary to be paid sufficient attention in this regard in the following quarters.

Central Statistics and Information Organization

<u>Major priorities</u>

The major anti-corruption priorities of the Central Statistics and Information Organization include awareness raising of employees and ensuring compliance with procurement laws, strengthening the contract management and financial management of the office, strengthening the monitoring, evaluation and audit systems, capacity development of staff, enhancing transparency and accountability in the office, and facilitating asset registration of senior officials and employees.

Major activities and achievements

- Organizing all finance and accounts in accordance with the guidance of the Treasury Department and finance and budget procedures of the Budget Department of the Ministry of Finance, which uses the AFMIS system to record transactions and send its reports to the Ministry of Finance;
- Assessing all of the office's work systems and procedures to simplify them and digitalize the financial and budget systems of the office;
- Assessing the performance of Statistics and Information Departments of Jawzjan and Sar-i-Pul provinces by the dispatching audit delegations;
- Organizing procurement affairs based on the procurement law and procedures, preparing a monitoring plan for implementation of procurement and financial practices, and appointing honest and competent individuals to procurement delegations, including purchasing, bid opening and bid evaluation delegations;
- Participation of one staff member of Procurement Department in a procurement training program held by the Civil Service Commission (Civil Service Institute) and participation of four employees in purchasing/procurement training held by the Treasury Department of the Ministry of Finance.
- Conducting an office need assessment to identify staff capacity shortages and holding professional and capacity development programs for the office personnel, including a training program on the Administrative Procedural Law for 36 staff members;
- Disseminating information about the organization and its activities in accordance with the Article 15 of the Access to Information Law and creation of an Information Unit, appointment of an Information Officer and publishing details about the information officer and other relevant staff of the office.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The Central Statistics and Information Organization has reported that lack of cooperation of their departments in providing evidence and supporting documents for the completed anti-corruption activities as a major challenge in reporting on the implementation of their anti-corruption action plan.
Analysis of performance and achievements

The Central Statistics and Information Organization reports that the registration of transactions in the Afghanistan Financial Management Information System (AFMIS) and the use of electronic systems for managing the financial and budget affairs of the organization has improved the financial management and has reduced the vulnerability to corruption in the administration of finance and budget affairs of the organization. The dispatch of audit delegations to the provinces and the conduction of procurement affairs based on the procurement laws have improved the procurement of contracts and the transparency of financial and procurement activities and the accountability of the administration. Publishing information about the organization and its activities, and will increase transparency and accountability in the organization.

It should be noted that the Central Statistics and Information Organization has not submitted supporting documents for some activities, including the establishment of a monitoring plan for execution of procurement and finance processes, the creation of an Information Unit, appointment of an Information Officer, publishing details on the Information Officer, the staff training needs assessment to identify employees' capacity shortages and to digitalize the financial and budget systems of the office.

Independent General Directorate of Kuchi (Nomad)

Major priorities

The major anti-corruption priorities of the Independent General Director of Kuchies are the prevention of corruption in the office's financial affairs and budget expenditure, addressing problems and handling complaints in order to improve the administration of affairs in the organization, enhancing transparency of human resources affairs, simplifying activities, and increasing transparency and accountability in the office.

Major activities and achievements

- Conducting audits at the center level and in seven provinces, which, in the event of corruption and other irregularities, appropriate measures have been taken in accordance with the laws of the country;
- Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of financial expenditures plans, in coordination with the Finance and Admin Department and monitoring the process of financial and procurement documents;
- Establishing a complaint box and complaints handling committees for adjudication of complaints in the central and provincial levels, to solve citizens and employees' problems, identify problems and gaps and gain public trust in the services of the organization;
- Evaluation of the conducted activities after the implementation of each activity in the last quarter to identify problems, gaps and effectiveness of the activities;
- Public announcement of 20 vacant positions through official recruitment websites for recruitment of staff through free competition, under the auspices of the Civil Service Commission;
- Establishing a reward and punishment mechanism in the center and provinces to enhance staff performance and increase the effectiveness of their work;
- To accelerate the registration of the Kuchies and monitor the distribution process of National ID cards for the Kuchies in the center and provinces.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The Independent General Director of Kuchies has not reported any specific problem for the implementation of their Anti-Corruption Action Plan during the past six months.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The Independent General Director of Kuchies has been able to complete all the activities planned for the first six months of the fiscal year 1397 based on the percentages set out in their anti-corruption action plan, and has not faced any major problems or delays in its implementation.

They have reported that the performance audit of their seven provincial offices in Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Badakhshan, Lograr, Paktia and Khost has improved

transparency and management of financial and administrative affairs of their provincial offices. The implementation of reward and punishment mechanism, which has rewarded 47 employees and punished four other employees has helped the organization to identify and differentiate committed and competent employees from non-committed employees, which in turn has improved the employee's accountability towards the organization.

In addition, monitoring of the distribution of Tazkiras for Kuchies has increased the transparency and speed of this process. The establishment of complaints boxes will help the agency to identify and resolve employees and clients' problems, and over time this will improve the delivery services in the country. Furthermore, increasing the monitoring and evaluation of activities carried out in the last two quarters increases the effectiveness of the future performance and the accountability of central and provincial offices.

Finally, the public announcement of vacancies and holding collective exams with the participation and oversight of the internal audit has increased transparency in the recruitment process, and facilitates the merit-based recruitment in the organization, which in turn increases the effectiveness and quality of services provided by the office. Similarly, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of expenditures and procurement plans has led to the improvement in implementation of laws, regulations, and financial and procurement procedures and, as a result, the proper use of public funds and resources.

Kabul Municipality

Major priorities

The major priorities of the Kabul Municipality's anti-corruption action plan include the implementation of reforms in the areas of construction, transport, finance, admin and procurement, cleaning and urban services by automating and creating electronic systems, simplifying processes, public announcement of development projects and ensuring transparency in procurement processes, strengthening the mechanisms for handling complaints and strengthening coordination with other ministries and institutions.

Major activities and achievements

- Establishing and implementing a system and database for registration of construction violations and establishing procedures for its operation, which has registered and dealt with 560 construction violations in the past six months;
- Establishing and implementing an online building permit system by creating a licensing department to issue building permits from a single department and under one ceiling, which currently issues all building permits. By creating this department, the extra and unnecessary processes of issuing building permits and steps of processing documents are reduced to the shortest possible time, and several processes that were previously executed by several departments are done in a very shorter time by a single unit. This not only brings about ease of work in the area of issuing building permits, but also reduces administrative corruption in the relevant departments;
- Establishing and using a system of registering and coordination of business classes, and the calculation of all payments of Kabul City business classes is done automatically and electronically;
- Establishing an online project management system for Kabul Municipality that is currently being used in pilot form and a number of Kabul Municipality projects are being monitoring by this system;
- Installation of surveillance cameras outside the offices and at the Kabul Municipality corridors, in order to control and prevent corruption;
- Public announcement of procurement projects through several public media outlets, in order to provide a forum for the effective participation and competition of private companies in the procurement processes of the Municipality;
- The establishment of the AFMIS system in the financial and administrative departments of Kabul Municipality, and as a result the salary system has been established and is being used, and will be extended to other departments in the next quarter;
- Establishing new transfer stations in different parts of Kabul City to reduce transportation costs, to prevent environmental pollution and to improve waste

management. Also, several transportation vehicles are allocated for the transfer of waste, which has prevented the use of all vehicles for cleaning purposes and the high consumption of fuel in the waste management;

- Asset registration of 12 employees of the financial, administrative and the maintenance departments of the office;
- Controlling consumption of oils and preventing unnecessary expenses in repairing Kabul municipality vehicles;
- Establishing an Anti-Corruption Committee under the supervision of the Mayor and creating an internal law review committee.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The lack of employees' security who disclose corrupt individuals and the timeconsuming process of amending the laws, regulations, and procedures in the Kabul Municipality and the Ministry of Justice have been reported as the major problems and challenges facing the Kabul Municipality in the fight corruption.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The main activities and achievements of the Kabul Municipality over the past six months have focused more on automating and creating electronic systems in the areas of registration of construction violations, issuance of building permits, registration of business classes and payment of charges for municipal services, the creation and pilot use of an online system of project management, installing surveillance cameras in the headquarters offices and corridors, using the AFMIS system for the payment of salaries and using the electronic attendance system.

The 155 Call Center for the Kabul Municipality has responded to 3,505 calls over the past six months, including responding to 3,315 cases and handling or adjudication of up to 190 cases of complaints. It is worth noting that details of the types of complaints are not provided.

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission

<u>Major priorities</u>

The major priorities of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission's anticorruption action plan are including empowering the organization, enhancing transparency and accountability of finance, admin, procurement and logistics, respecting the priority right of vulnerable groups, and asset registration of senior employees and high-ranking officials.

Major activities and achievements

- Deploying monitoring teams to regional and provincial offices to evaluate the activities of the fiscal year 1396 and to audit the financial, administrative and logistical affairs of the Kunduz, Badakhshan and Faryab offices, which, as a result, increased the level of transparency and assurance of effective operations, and the weaknesses and deficiencies identified have been resolved;
- Drafting two bills for transport and payroll that have improved the management and transparency of their administrative and financial affairs;
- The purchase and procurement bill of the commission which has been prepared based on procurement laws and regulations in 2017, has been implemented in the past two quarters, which has resulted to an increase of accountability and transparency in this area and has helped to ensure that the Commission's procurement procedures are in line and in coordination with the government procurement standards and practices;
- The implementation of the Commission's standard financial and administrative procedures, which has increased the credibility, simplicity and transparency of the work, has reflected in internal and external audit reports;
- Compliance with the national procurement laws and regulations of the country and requesting cooperation from the National Procurement Authority in conducting major procurement activities has facilitated cooperation between government and the Commission on financial affairs, and has resulted to the satisfaction of the parties on how the budget is spent;
- Asset registration of the Commission's all senior employees and high ranking officials.
- Implementation of the Commission's financial and administrative procedures on recruitment and capacity development, in which gender equality and the rights of people with disabilities are always respected.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

Based on the AIHRC's quarterly report, the AIHRC has reported that they have implemented all the planned activities. Meanwhile, lack of security in distant districts has been mentioned as a challenge to the Commission's activities at the provincial level.

Analysis of performance and achievements

Based on the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission report, provincial visits have been made for empowering regional and provincial offices and improving their performance in implementation of the Commission's programs and strategies. Continuous field visits to carry out audit and assessment of performance of regional and provincial offices, can help to maintain a constant link between the HQ office and the regional and provincial offices, enhance the capacity and improve the performance of regional and provincial offices in advancing the performance and implementation of programs, as well as strengthening transparency in commission's work.

Adopting legal mechanisms and creating legal frameworks can create easiness in the conduct of activities and prevent corruption. In this regard, the commission has approved two bills that can provide easiness and transparency in the financial and administrative matters. Similarly, the implementation of procurement related laws, regulations and procedures will enhance accountability, transparency, effectiveness, efficiency and credibility of the commission's activities in the procurement and financial related affairs. Strengthening coordination between the Commission and the government in procurement matters and ensuring consistency in procurement practices is another major outcome of implementation of procurement related laws and regulations.

It should be noted that the AIHRC has not provided supporting documents for all implemented activities in the past two quarters, which makes it difficult to verify the reported activities. In connection with the quarterly report, the Procurement Bill and the Internal Audit Bill of the Commission have been submitted as supporting documents.

Ariana Afghan Airlines

<u>Major priorities</u>

Creating transparency and accountability in revenue collections, establishing a procurement and expenditure electronic system, supervising the process of purchasing and contracts, creating a mechanism to determine the increase and decrease in the prices within the company, establishing a supervising mechanism to oversee the technical services and checks of the planes of other airlines, strengthening and making internal audit efficient, recruiting people based on open competition, promoting professional knowledge and experience of the employees as well as assets registration, establishing a communication system for the passengers and providing the opportunity for the civil society and media to have access to information, and identifying, discovering, and implementing the disciplinary sanctions on corrupted offenders, and introducing the corrupted individuals to the judiciary entities.

Major activities and achievements

- 50 job vacancies have been identified, announced on the website, and 13 people were hired through open competition;
- 5 corruption cases were submitted to the justice center and General Attorney Office;
- Provided training opportunities for three employees of the financial, commercial, and procurement departments;
- Established a committee and supervisory board for a transparent and merit based recruitment process;
- Assets of 76 officials were registered and 420 asset registration forms were distributed to the staff members;
- Assessment of the revenue collecting sections by the internal audit;
- Established and installed the information and complaint box regarding corruption;
- Established a website regarding anti-corruption activities and achievements, collecting reports and information from civil society and social media about the anti-corruption phenomena within the company;
- Analyzed and parsed the reports and information related to the corruption within the company, and corrupted individuals of the company were identified and introduced to the judicial and judiciary organs.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

In the past six month of the fiscal year, Ariana Afghan Airlines has not reported any other specific problem and the activities are addressed in accordance with the Anti-Corruption Action Plan of the company. Except for the lack of the company deputy's cooperation, which this has caused delays to disclose and register the asset of company officials.

Analysis of performance and achievements

In the last six months of the fiscal year, Ariana Airlines has completed most of its activities in accordance with its Anti-Corruption Action Plan. The company has established a specific committee to monitor and evaluate the recruitment process and the principle of meritocracy. Moreover, evaluation and analysis reports of this company, on combating corruption, have been collected. 5 individuals accused of corruption were introduced to the judicial entities. Ariana Airline audits and controls its revenue department to prevent widespread corruption in the company. For the capacity building purpose, the company provided training program to the 3 employees from the financial, commercial, procurement, and auditing departments. The company has established a complaint and information box regarding corruption so that the employees easily provide information on corruption matters. Furthermore, president of this company, including 344 employees of this company did not registered their assets.

National Environmental Protection Agency

Major priorities

The major priorities of the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) are: diminishing job interference, providing access to information on developments to the people and employees, increase transparency and accountability, capacity building and internal audit in order to create transparency in the financial and administrative system.

Major activities and achievements

- Introduced 13 employees to the training programs to build their capacity;
- Established a committee for a transparent and merit based appointments;
- The National Environmental Protection Agency has been internally audited in 5 provinces of Afghanistan to bring transparency in both the financial and administrative system;
- Drafted a monitoring mechanism for development projects, as well as established a committee to monitor the development projects;
- Launched an electronic reporting system for all the employees;
- Created an Anti-Corruption Committee at the office level.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

The major challenges that are highlighted by this department are: lack of professional experts, lack of qualified employees in the monitoring directorates, security absence on the roads of some of the provinces, and refusal of the projects of this department by MoF.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The NEPA has developed and established e-government programs in order to facilitate communication and share environmental information in the last six month of fiscal year. In addition, in order to create financial and administrative transparency, the NEPA has conducted an internal audit in five provinces of the country (Herat, Badghis, Farah, Nimruz, and Ghazni). However, the results of the audit and the assessment of corrupted individuals have not been reported to the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat.

The Oversight and Evaluation Committee of this entity has monitored the performance of 233 employees. This office has established a Committee to oversee and prevent corruption in the development projects. In term of capacity building, 13 female employees were introduced to the Promote Project "Women in Government", while 3 interns, who are fresh graduates of environment faculty have been introduced to central directorates for training, who are currently busy learning practical jobs. It is worth mentioning, that this office has not provided sufficient supporting documents and evidence regarding its activities to the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat.

Civil Aviation Authority

<u>Major priorities</u>

Transparency in collecting revenues, transparency in recruitment and managing revenues, transparency in the flight safety department's activities, strengthening transparency in developing activities, adaptive planning of the procurement department of Civil Aviation Authority, strengthening transparency and accountability, facilitating registration of officials' and staffs' assets and strengthening the statistical capacity of the administrative are the major priorities of Civil Aviation Authority.

Major activities and achievements

- Creating a database of registering information of planes, transit flights and also registration of administration's properties
- Tracking employees' overtime through their bank accounts
- Enhancing the capacity based on accurate assessment and maintaining meritocracy through a transparent mechanism of recruitment
- Accurate monitoring of staff performance in accordance with the time limitation as predicted in related laws
- Creating a database for administrative civil servant staffs, implementing oa new amendments of civil aviation law on the expiration age of planes (amended from 15 years to 25 year)
- Creating a planes' record database and granting certificates according to international standards aviation field, creating review settings according to "ICAO" laws for fixing deficiencies and problems
- Drafting the four-year strategic plan (2018-2022) and civil aviation's new policy
- Creating database for registering information about projects and the structure of the projects management
- Preparing a checklist for those installations and equipment that are considered as of prioritized development needs of all airports
- Preparing and arrangement of executive guidance for procurement process and contract management and approve it by the head of the administrative

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

This administrative implemented all their activities in accordance with their action plan and did not report any problem in implementing their action plan

Analysis of performance and achievements

The civil aviation authority has been able to prevent loss of income and property and create transparency in collecting revenues and managing goods in the storeroom by creating an information registering database for planes, transit- flights, registration of properties and establishing an inventory system. This administration has been succeeded to enhance work efficiency, improvement of service deliveries, creating a safe work environment and enhancing the satisfaction level of staffs in the administrative by implementing meritocracy in recruitment, enhancing staffs' capacity and handling labor disputes. By amending the civil aviation law, transparency has been created in granting activity permit for local aviation corporations, issuing fees for Licenses, granting the certificate for flight capabilities and preventing corruption in collecting revenues. Also, drafting the strategic plan and new policy for the aviation sector will bring transparency and order in development programs, and operational program of the civil aviation authority.

Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat

Major priorities

Recruitment and asset registrations, transparency of commercial, financial, technical and administrative affairs are of the major priorities Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat DABS.

Major activities and achievements

- The Government Ministries/Administrations Revenues process has been reviewed and revised by DABS, meanwhile, a proposed plan of the commercial directorate has been submitted to the CEO of DABS.
- In the last two quarters a number of 46,392 of analog meters (electricity counters) have been replaced to digital meters.
- In accordance with the article 15 of the access to information law, DABS regularly publishes information through its official website.
- The internal audit office has extended its scope of audit in the 2nd quarter and has solved 38 complaints from customers.
- The payments have been expanded through banks, for instance since April 2018 the electric payments of the two provinces (Paktia & Logar) which is more than (50,000 AFS) issues through the banks.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

One of the major challenges that the DABS has faced in past 6 months was coincidence of the meters replacing date with the month of Ramadan, which caused a decrease in implementation speed.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The DABS has implemented its planned activities and has sent sufficient evidence and supporting documents to the Special Secretariat, in order to support the implemented activities.

Based on the report, the DABS has been able to raise the trust of customers in their work by publishing necessary information. Additionally, payment of 50,000 AFS through banks has caused more transparency in bill payments of customers.

Da Afghanistan Bank

Major priorities

Facilitating asset registration of officials and staffs, strengthening access to information right, strengthening staff identification and appreciation system, ensuring transparency in recruitment process, addressing internal and external combating against corruption applications, increasing ministries'/administrations' capacity regarding anti-money laundering and proceeds of crimes law, implementing automatic payment system and obtaining an internal audit certificate are of the major priorities of Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB).

Major activities and achievements

- In order to strengthen management of risks and identifying suspicious assets accumulations of people, DAB has prepared guidelines for banks and financial institutions.
- A memorandum of understanding was signed with the financial intelligence unit of Kazakhstan.
- 47 asset declaration forms along with the list of officials are submitted to the Administrative Office of the President.
- The legal documents of the: 1. Whistle Blowing Act, 2. staff identification and appreciation systems in the context of combating corruption has been drafted and submitted to the Supreme Council of Da Afghanistan Bank for approval. In addition, DAB in the context of fighting against money laundering and corruption addressed applications from internal and external administrations, which has cooperated in the past 2 quarters in resolving 55 cases of internal law enforcement offices and 15 addressed cases of other countries similar offices.
- DAB regularly hold press conferences in order to ensure the public awareness on the monetary status of Afghanistan.
- In order to create transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the Automated Transfer System (ATS), the Central Securities Depository (CSD) has been established and is currently under implementation.
- In the monitoring section, multilateral and specific monitoring has been made to implement the anti-money laundering and proceeds of crimes law in all of Kabul's money exchange markets and 13 provinces. Additionally, in order to monitor the bank accounts of the high-ranking officials, DAB specifically has monitored 6 banks. Meanwhile, outdoor oversight has been carried out on 8 banks according to the plan and risk-based approach.
- 5 other specific oversights of the various cases have been carried out. Also, anticorruption and combating the financing of terrorism laws of the 7 banks and 2 money service companies have been reviewed.
- In the context of access to information, Da Afghanistan bank has established access to information office and appointed the access to information officer. In

addition, DAB has sent several magazines to procurement office for publication. Moreover, economic and statistical bulletins of the 3rd quarter are under translation to Dari and Pashto. DAB has also held public awareness sessions, seminars, and workshops for better and effective implementation of the Access to Information Law.

• In order to strengthen internal audit, the admission process of the staffs in the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) has been completed.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

DAB has highlighted some major challenges in implementing the anti-corruption action plan, which include: lack of a corruption notifying law in Afghanistan, delays in recruitment processes, failure to hold the civil servants test and lack of a law/procedure for rewarding whistle blowers in Afghanistan.

Analysis of performance and achievements

The DAB activities in the past six months was mainly focused on asset declaration, work on the Whistle Blowing Act, referral of the alleged corruption cases to the Attorney General's office, resolving the administration's clients, holding awareness sessions and workshops in order to spread public awareness of monetary status of the country, installation of automatic payment systems and oversight of the implementation of the anti-corruption and proceeds of crimes law. The DAB has provided adequate supporting documents and evidences of implementing the action plan to the Special Secretariat.

Afghan Red Crescent Society

Major priorities

The prevention and reduction of human suffering without any discrimination, assistance to conflict and natural disaster victims, and the adoption of necessary measures to take part in the prevention of diseases are among the main priorities of the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS).

Major activities and achievements

- Conducted a workshop to prevent Anti-Corruption in six provinces of the country (Kapisa, Panjshir, Bamyan, Parwan, Mazar-i-Sharif and Herat);
- Established a Novation system at the office level to build transparency in the financial sector;
- Monitoring the implementation of the procurement regulations in contracts and purchases to prevent corruption
- Publishing and distributing of the Holy Quran verses, the Prophet's Hadiths and religious teachings through bulletins and billboards in the center and provinces of the country to make the public aware of corruption.

Difficulties and challenges of implementing the action plan

ARCS has highlighted the timely mismanagement in the budget for travel costs and accommodation of the Board of Directors, roadway insecurity to monitor other branches at the provinces, and not submitting the Anti-Corruption reports in a timely manner in accordance with the deadline to the president as the major challenges.

Analysis of performance and achievements

According to Afghan Red Crescent Society, over the past six months, the agency has focused on raising awareness amongst the public against corruption, including workshops in six provinces of the country. Moreover, in order to bring transparency at the financial sections, 18 new systems have been deployed in the 18 branches of this office in the provinces. A valid review has been carried out at this office which based on this review; performance are in accordance with procedures, existence of regulation of work with documents and evidence at the level of the administration, establishment of fixed and mobile health clinics, and transferring first aid to the villages by the South-West Regional Coordinating Directorate of Paktia, Paktika, Khost, Logar, Wardak, and Ghazni provinces, and the North-West Regional Coordinating Directorate of Panjshir, Kabul, Parwan, Daikundi, Kapisa, and Bamyan provinces.

Meanwhile, within the last six months, this office has been able to conduct four awareness-raising workshops on procurement bills in the seven zones, and held procurement workshops for the executive managers to prevent corruption and misuse of activities. Also, four cases of Red Crescent properties were sent to the court, two of which cases were resolved for the favor of the Red Crescent and the two remaining cases are under legal process.

Appendix C: Table of reports by government institutions on the implementation of goal 8 and indicator 9 of the third pillar of the National Strategy for Combating Corruption from September 28, 2018 to August 06, 2018

		Regarding servants ²	5,000 civil		Regardi	ng 1,00	0 civil sei	rvants ³				Identificati on of	
No	Government institution	Encourag ed to retireme nt or managed out	Introduc ed to educatio nal opportun ities	Total	Servic e compl etion	Aged serv ants	Volunt ary	Absence/ forced out	Disease /physic al health	Educatio n (12 grade or lower than 12 grade)	Remarks	current employees aged between 55 – 65 with 21 grade education or lower	State of reporti ng
1	Ministry of Interior Affairs	No report	10	10		19	3		6				Report ed
2	Ministry of Women Affairs	1	No report	1		2			6				Report ed
3	Ministry of Counter Narcotics	No report	No report		2	3			2				Report ed
4	Ministry of Communication and Information Technology	No report	38	38	5	33	5			43 people, grade 12			Report ed
5	Ministry of Rural	No	No								No		Report

²Manage out or give education options to at least 5,000 superannuated or non-performing, after which they will either meet performance criteria or leave the civil service ³ Compulsory retirement packages for 1,000 civil servants between the ages of 55 and 65, 12 grade or lower educational levels

	Rehabilitation and Development	report	report								Activitie s		ed
6	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock	28	22	50		91				12 grade and lower 12			Report ed
7	Ministry of Higher Education	No report	No report		2	10			2	11 people grade 12, one lower			Report ed
8	Ministry of Information and Culture	No report	No report		1	20	5	21	10	31 people grade 12 and 26 lower 12			Report ed
9	Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations	No report	23	23		2			1	3 people lower 12 grade		93	Report ed
10	Ministry of Borders and Tribal Affairs	11	No report	11		8							Report ed
11	Ministry of Mines and Petroleum	No report	No report		5	7						34	Report ed
12	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	25	No report	70								49	Report ed
13	Ministry of	35	501	536		35				35		384	Report

	Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled									people, 12 grade		ed
14	Ministry of Economy	No report	No report			4				4 people, 12 grade	41	Report ed
15	Ministry of Justice	No report	No report			27		11	9		129	Report ed
16	State Minister for Parliamentary Affairs	No report	No report							No activitie s	2	Report ed
17	Ministry of Urban Development and Housing	22	No report	22	2	23		2			158	Report ed
18	Ministry of Haj and Islamic Affairs	32	No report	32				14	1			Report ed
19	Ministry of Education	1469	3274	4743								Report ed
20	Ministry of Public Health	No report	No report			23	1	26	7	52 people 12 grade and 5 lower 12		Report ed
21	Ministry of	4	No	4		3	1			12 grade		Report

	Defence		report										ed
22	Ministry of Transport	No report	No report		2	13			7	22 people, grade 12			Report ed
23	Ministry of Energy and Water	19	No report	No repor t		13							Report ed
24	Ministry of Industry and Commerce	5	95	100	4	20			2				Report ed
25	Ministry of Public Works	No report	No report			۵۵							Report ed
26	Ministry of Finance	No report	No report		17	84	52	54	53				Report ed
27	Supreme Court	67	9	76							No activitie s	205	Report ed
28	Attorney General Office	130	31	161	6	109			8	27 lower 12 grade and other 12 grade			Report ed
29	Central Statistics Organization	No report	No report		1	7			6	14 people, 12 grade			Report ed
30	Capital Region	No	No								All		Report

	Independent Development Authority	report	report							Employe es are contract based		ed
31	Supreme Audit Office	No report	No report		1						18	Report ed
32	Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority	No report	2	2	2	6					57	Report ed
33	National Environment Protection Agency	No report	No report			10	2	2				Report ed
34	Ariana Afghan Airlines	No report	No report			5					37	Report ed
35	National Radio Television of Afghanistan	205	No report	No repor t		17			12 grade and lower 12		100	Report ed
36	Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of Constitution	No report	No report			1			12 grade			Report ed
37	Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission	No report	No report							No Activitie s		Report ed
38	Civil Aviation	26	No	26		25			25			Report

	Authority		report				people 12 grade			ed
39	Afghanistan Independent Land Authority (ARAZI)	13	No report	13	40		39 people 12 grade and one lower 12			Report ed
40	Independent Directorate of Local Governance	6	No report	6				No activitie s	420	Report ed
41	National Security Council									Report ed
42	High Oversight Board on Security Officials Appointments								3	Report ed
43	Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Commission	Did not report	Did not report							Did not report
44	Da Afghanistan Bank	5	138	143	6				163	Report ed
45	Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat	106	No report	106						Report ed
46	Afghanistan	No	No		1		One 12		5	Report

	National Standard Authority	Activitie s	Activitie s				grade			ed
47	General Director ate of Physical Education and Sport	No Activitie s	No Activitie s	1						Report ed
48	National Procurement Authority	No Activitie s	No Activitie s					Has no employe e regardin g benchm ark and goal		Report ed
49	Afghanistan Water Supply and Sewerage Corporation	No Activitie s	No Activitie s		15					Report ed
50	Independent General Directorate of Kuchi (Nomad)	No Activitie s	No Activitie s due to lack of budget						16	Report ed
51	Administrative Office of the President	Did not report	Did not report					Did not report		No report
52	Kabul Municipality	Did not report	Did not report					Did not report		Report ed
53	Office of Chief of								Has no	Report

	Staff for the President									employee regarding benchmar k and goal	ed
54	Afghanistan Railway Authority	No report	No report								No report
Tota	l	2209 6352	4143	1062	743	68	128	123		1914	

Appendix D: List of government institutions that have submitted or not submitted their six-month reports to the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat

No		First Q	uarter	Second	Quarter
	Name	Submitted	Not Submitted	Submitted	Not Submitted
		A: Mir	istries		
1	Ministry of Finance	\checkmark		✓	
2	Ministry of Justice	✓		✓	
3	Ministry of Transport	✓		✓	
4	Ministry of Industries and Commerce		\checkmark	~	
5	Ministry of Interior Affairs	\checkmark		~	
6	Ministry of Defence	✓		\checkmark	
7	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled	~		~	
8	Ministry of Mines and Petroleum	\checkmark		~	
9	Ministry of Public Health	\checkmark		\checkmark	
10	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development	~		~	
11	Ministry of Communication and Information Technology	✓		~	
12	Ministry of Education	\checkmark		✓	
13	Ministry of Energy and Water	~		~	
14	Ministry of Economy	\checkmark		\checkmark	
15	Ministry of Higher Education	\checkmark		\checkmark	
16	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	\checkmark		~	
17	Ministry of Counter Narcotics	\checkmark		~	
18	Ministry of Borders and Tribal Affairs	~		~	
19	Ministry of Haj and Islamic Affairs	×		~	
20	Ministry of Information and Culture	\checkmark		~	
21	Ministry of Women	\checkmark		✓	

	Affairs		
22	Ministry of Urban Development and Housing	\checkmark	✓
23	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock	\checkmark	✓
24	Ministry of Public Works	\checkmark	✓
25	State Minister for Parliamentary Affairs	~	✓
26	Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations	✓	✓

B: Directorates/Commissions/Authorities

27	Office of Chief of Staff for the President	\checkmark		~	
28	Administrative Office of the President	\checkmark		~	
29	Independent Directorate of Local Governance		~	~	
30	Attorney General Office	\checkmark		~	
31	National Procurement Authority	✓		~	
32	Supreme Audit Office	\checkmark		✓	
33	Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Commission	✓		~	
34	High Oversight Board on Security Officials Appointments	\checkmark		~	
35	National Security Council	\checkmark		~	
36	Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of Constitution		✓	~	
37	Supreme Court	\checkmark		\checkmark	
38	Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority	\checkmark		~	
39	Afghanistan Water Supply and Sewerage	~		~	

	Corporation				
40	Capital Region Independent Development Authority	\checkmark		~	
41	Afghanistan Railway Authority	\checkmark		~	
42	Central Statistics Organization	\checkmark		~	
43	Independent General Directorate of Kuchi (Nomad)	\checkmark		~	
44	Kabul Municipality	\checkmark		\checkmark	
45	Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission	\checkmark		~	
46	Ariana Afghan Airlines	\checkmark		~	
47	National Environment Protection Agency		~	~	
48	Civil Aviation Authority		~	~	
49	Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat	\checkmark		~	
50	Da Afghanistan Bank	\checkmark		✓	
51	National Radio Television of Afghanistan	~		~	
52	Afghan Red Crescent Society	✓		✓	

List of government institutions that have submitted or not submitted their supporting documents for reports to the Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat

	Name	F	First Quarte	r	Second Quarter					
N O		Submitt ed	Submitte d but not complete ly	Not Submitt ed	Submitt ed	Submitte d but not complete ly	Not Submitt ed			
	A: Ministries									
1	Ministry of Finance	~			~					
2	Ministry of Justice	\checkmark			\checkmark					
3	Ministry of Transport	\checkmark			\checkmark					
4	Ministry of Industries and Commerce		~		~					
5	Ministry of Interior Affairs			~		~				
6	Ministry of Defence			\checkmark		~				
7	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled		~		V					
8	Ministry of Mines and Petroleum		~		~					
9	Ministry of Public Health	~			~					
1 0	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitatio n and	✓			~					
1 1	Development Ministry of Communicati on and Information Technology	~			~					
1	Ministry of	\checkmark			\checkmark					

2	Education						
	Ministry of						
1	Energy and	\checkmark			✓		
3	Water						
1	Ministry of						
4	Economy		\checkmark			✓	
	Ministry of						
1	Higher		\checkmark		\checkmark		
5	Education						
	Ministry of						
1	Foreign			✓	\checkmark		
6	Affairs						
1	Ministry of						
1 7	Counter	\checkmark			\checkmark		
/	Narcotics						
1	Ministry of						
1 8	Borders and		\checkmark			\checkmark	
0	Tribal Affairs						
	Ministry of						
1	Haj and	\checkmark			✓		
9	Islamic						
	Affairs						
	Ministry of						
2	Information		\checkmark			\checkmark	
0	and Culture						
<u> </u>	Ministry of						
2	Ministry of Women		\checkmark			✓	
1	Affairs						
	Ministry of						
2	Urban						
2	Development	\checkmark			\checkmark		
1	and Housing						
	Ministry of						
	Agriculture,						
2	Irrigation	1					
3	and	\checkmark			✓		
	Livestock						
2	Ministry of		~			✓	
4	Public Works		v			v	
	State						
2	Minister for		~		✓		
5	Parliamentar						
	y Affairs						
2	Ministry of						
6	Refugees and			✓	✓		
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Repatriation

	S									
	B: Directorates/Commissions/Authorities									
2 7	Office of Chief of Staff for the	✓			~					

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3 7	Supreme Court		✓		~		
3 8	Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority		¥		~		
3 9	Afghanistan Water Supply and Sewerage Corporation		¥		~		
4 0	Capital Region Independent Development Authority	~			~		
4 1	Afghanistan Railway Authority			~		\checkmark	
4 2	Central Statistics Organization	✓				~	
4 3	Independent General Directorate of Kuchi (Nomad)		V		~		
4 4	Kabul Municipality		~		~		
4 5	Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission			~		✓	
4 6	Ariana Afghan Airlines	✓			~		
4 7	National Environment Protection Agency			~		~	
4 8	Civil Aviation Authority			✓	\checkmark		
4 9	Da Afghanistan Breshna	\checkmark			~		

	Sherkat				
5	Da				
0	Afghanistan	\checkmark		\checkmark	
0	Bank				
	National				
5	Radio		1		
1	Television of		v		v
	Afghanistan				
5 2	Afghan Red				
	Crescent	\checkmark			\checkmark
	Society				

"We cannot blame others for not solving this corruption problem that eats our countries alive from within." H.E. President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, Speech to G7

> Office of Chief of Staff for the President Deputy of Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation Special Anti-Corruption Secretariat