

ARTF Strategy Group Meeting

October 14, 2014

Summary of Discussion

An ARTF Strategy Group Meeting was held at the World Bank office in Kabul on October 14th, 2014 with participation from 9 donor countries, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance and the World Bank to discuss the findings of the EQUIP II Learning Assessment. The meeting was initiated by a presentation by the Ministry of Education (MoE) on the methodology and preliminary findings of the study.

EQUIP II Learning Assessment: MoE delivered a presentation on the National Assessment Survey (NAS) or Learning Assessment (LA) in Afghanistan “Monitoring Trends in Educational Growth in Afghanistan”, a multi-year exercise intended to inform educational policy development and planning related to curriculum development, pedagogical practice, teacher training, resource allocation and equitable service delivery. The presentation focused on the objectives and practical uses of the study, the current methodology, the outcomes of the 6th grade assessment and the relationships between student’s test results and select socio-economic variables. The presentation also shed light on the timeline for Grade 3 assessment which will be conducted in 2015.

Learning Assessment Unit: Currently, the Learning Assessment Unit (LAU) functions as a pilot initiative under the EQUIP II project and is fully managed by technical assistants (TAs). Although this model of operations has numerous benefits, it is also subjected to extra-bureaucratic procedures within the Ministry of Education. Possible future directions for institutionalization were discussed: a) for LAU to be embedded in one of the current deputies b) create a separate unit with the Ministries Tashkeel for NAS and upscale c) create an entirely independent institution outside the scope of the Ministry of Education. The stakeholder workshop would be an appropriate platform for this discussion.

Stakeholders Workshop: The results of the Learning Assessment will be presented at the end of November in a 3 day workshop at the Serena Hotel. Multiple stakeholders will be invited to participate including Policy makers, donors, national NGOs and teachers which will assist in developing evidence based curriculum and training recommendations and inform education policy.