



Higher Education Reforms Project (P147010)

SOUTH ASIA | Nepal | Education Global Practice |
IBRD/IDA | Investment Project Financing | FY 2015 | Seq No: 2 | ARCHIVED on 09-Nov-2015 | ISR20916 |

Implementing Agencies: University Grants Commission

Key Dates

Key Project Dates

Bank Approval Date:19-Feb-2015

Effectiveness Date:22-May-2015

Planned Mid Term Review Date:21-Nov-2017

Actual Mid-Term Review Date:--

Original Closing Date:30-Jun-2020

Revised Closing Date:30-Jun-2020

Project Development Objectives

Project Development Objective (from Project Appraisal Document)

To support reforms in selected institutions for improving quality, relevance, and efficiency of higher education; and to assist under-privileged students for equitable access.

Has the Project Development Objective been changed since Board Approval of the Project Objective?

No

Components

Name

Component 1: Implementation of Reforms:(Cost \$60.00 M)

Component 2: Capacity Building and Project Management:(Cost \$5.00 M)

Overall Ratings

| Name | Previous Rating | Current Rating |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Progress towards achievement of PDO | ● Satisfactory | ● Satisfactory |
| Overall Implementation Progress (IP) | ● Satisfactory | ● Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | ● Substantial | ● Substantial |

Implementation Status and Key Decisions



Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) 2 through 7 of year- zero have been achieved, and SDR 5.04 million disbursed against Year Zero DLI - Component 1 (Implementation of Reforms), and Component 2 (Capacity Building and Project Management). However, establishment of a Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency (QAAA) within UGC with functional autonomy due on June 30, 2015 (DLI 1 target for year-zero (fiscal year 2014/15)) is delayed and awaiting approval of the proposed amendment to UGC Regulations by the Government of Nepal. In the interim, Accreditation activities are being conducted by Quality Assurance and Accreditation Division under Quality Assurance and Accreditation Committee of UGC. Terms of Reference and Notice for the Expression of Interest (Eoi) for hiring a consulting firm for the beneficiary satisfaction survey of Higher Education has been finalized, and will be published soon.

The project implementation environment has severely deteriorated because of the Tarai Region unrest, (on top of severe damages from April 2015 earthquake), since September, 2015. There is an acute shortage of fuel resulting in severe transportation crises and scarcity of supplies, which has made normal operation of project offices and beneficiary institutions challenging. Project dissemination activities are on hold. The regional dissemination seminar has been held only in Central Region. Orientation schedules for research, reform grants, quality assurance and accreditation, and introduction and revision of academic programs are disturbed. Some of the examinations have been postponed. This may have implication for maintaining the academic calendar.

While the collection of students' applications for financial support for Grade 11 students has been completed, their final selection and opening of individual students bank accounts for disbursing scholarship both in the Tarai and other geographic regions will be delayed. Collection of students' applications for bachelor students (which covers all districts) has also been delayed.

The implementing agencies including UGC, TUPIO and SFAFDB are in regular contact with the Bank task team and discussing the situation to take appropriate measures in relation to the project implementation.



Risks

Systematic Operations Risk-rating Tool

| Risk Category | Rating at Approval | Previous Rating | Current Rating |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Political and Governance | -- | ● Substantial | ● Substantial |
| Macroeconomic | -- | ● Substantial | ● Substantial |
| Sector Strategies and Policies | -- | ● Moderate | ● Moderate |
| Technical Design of Project or Program | -- | ● Moderate | ● Moderate |
| Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability | -- | ● Moderate | ● Moderate |
| Fiduciary | -- | ● Substantial | ● Substantial |
| Environment and Social | -- | ● Moderate | ● Moderate |
| Stakeholders | -- | ● Moderate | ● Moderate |
| Other | -- | -- | -- |
| Overall | -- | ● Substantial | ● Substantial |



Results

Project Development Objective Indicators

► Number of Accredited HEIs (Number, Custom)

| | Baseline | Actual (Previous) | Actual (Current) | End Target |
|-------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Value | 12.00 | 12.00 | 15.00 | 125.00 |
| Date | 01-Aug-2014 | 15-Jun-2015 | 30-Oct-2015 | 30-Jun-2020 |

► Percentage of students enrolled in identified priority areas (Text, Custom)

| | Baseline | Actual (Previous) | Actual (Current) | End Target |
|-------|--|-------------------|--|--|
| Value | Under Graduates: 12.6; Post-graduates: 16.7 | -- | Under Graduates: 15.0; Post-graduates: 16.7 | Under Graduates: 17.0; Post-graduates: 23.0 |
| Date | 01-Aug-2014 | -- | 30-Oct-2015 | 30-Jun-2020 |

► Number of under-privileged students supported under the Project (Text, Custom)

| | Baseline | Actual (Previous) | Actual (Current) | End Target |
|-------|--|-------------------|--|---|
| Value | (i) Total Higher Sec (HS) : 0 Total Bachelor (B) : 0 (ii) % female(HS): 0 % female(B): 0 | -- | (i) Total Higher Sec (HS) : 0 Total Bachelor (B) : 0 (ii) % female(HS): 0 % female(B): 0 | (i) Total (HS) : 2,000 Total (B) : 7,500 (ii) % female(HS): 45 % female(B): 40 |
| Date | 01-Oct-2014 | 15-Jun-2015 | 30-Oct-2015 | 30-Jun-2020 |

► Average time taken for announcement of results of Bachelors programs with centralized examinations at TU (Months, Custom)

| | Baseline | Actual (Previous) | Actual (Current) | End Target |
|-------|----------|-------------------|------------------|------------|
| Value | 7.00 | -- | 7.00 | 3.00 |



| | | | | |
|------|-------------|----|-------------|-------------|
| Date | 01-Jul-2014 | -- | 30-Oct-2015 | 30-Jun-2020 |
|------|-------------|----|-------------|-------------|

► Number of publications in refereed journals by the research grant recipients. (Number, Custom)

| | Baseline | Actual (Previous) | Actual (Current) | End Target |
|-------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Value | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 85.00 |
| Date | 01-Jul-2014 | 15-Jun-2015 | 30-Oct-2015 | 30-Jun-2020 |

Overall Comments

It is a bit early to assess the progress in achievement of KPI targets for year-one since the year-one started on July 17, 2015 only. However, a brief account of the progress made to date is as follows:

Three higher education institutions (HEIs) have been accredited against the year-one target of eight (DLI 1); criteria for performance-based regular funding of community campuses have been adopted by UGC (DLI 2); and the share of students enrolled in identified priority areas at the undergraduate level has reached 15 percent against the year-one target of 13 percent (PDO indicator 2).

Intermediate Results Indicators

► Number of institutions undertaking specified reforms (Number, Custom)

| | Baseline | Actual (Previous) | Actual (Current) | End Target |
|-------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Value | 15.00 | -- | 18.00 | 135.00 |
| Date | 01-Oct-2014 | -- | 30-Oct-2015 | 30-Jun-2020 |

► Number of TU institutions granted autonomy (Number, Custom)

| | Baseline | Actual (Previous) | Actual (Current) | End Target |
|-------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Value | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 14.00 |
| Date | 01-Aug-2014 | 15-Jun-2015 | 30-Oct-2015 | 30-Jun-2020 |



► Number of academic programs revised (Number, Custom)

| | Baseline | Actual (Previous) | Actual (Current) | End Target |
|-------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Value | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 75.00 |
| Date | 01-Aug-2014 | 15-Jun-2015 | 30-Oct-2015 | 30-Jun-2020 |

► Number of new academic programs introduced in identified priority areas (Number, Custom)

| | Baseline | Actual (Previous) | Actual (Current) | End Target |
|-------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Value | 0.00 | -- | 0.00 | 65.00 |
| Date | 01-Jul-2014 | -- | 30-Oct-2015 | 30-Jun-2020 |

► Computerization of records of all students eligible for appearing in examinations from TU constituent and affiliated campuses (Percentage, Custom)

| | Baseline | Actual (Previous) | Actual (Current) | End Target |
|-------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Value | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5.00 | 100.00 |
| Date | 01-Jul-2014 | 15-Jun-2015 | 30-Oct-2015 | 30-Jun-2020 |

► Number of Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) projects supported in identified priority areas (Text, Custom)

| | Baseline | Actual (Previous) | Actual (Current) | End Target |
|-------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Value | PhD: 0; Faculty: 0 | -- | PhD: 0; Faculty: 0 | PhD: 130 Faculty: 220 |
| Date | 01-Aug-2014 | -- | 30-Oct-2015 | 30-Jun-2020 |

Comments

Data under Actual (Current) were filled in the previous ISR. However, the system is not picking up them under Actual (Previous) automatically in this ISR.



► Direct project beneficiaries (Number, Core)

| | Baseline | Actual (Previous) | Actual (Current) | End Target |
|-------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Value | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 500000.00 |
| Date | 01-Jul-2014 | 15-Jun-2015 | 30-Oct-2015 | 30-Jun-2020 |

▲ Female beneficiaries (Percentage, Core Supplement)

| | Baseline | Actual (Previous) | Actual (Current) | End Target |
|-------|----------|-------------------|------------------|------------|
| Value | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 40.00 |

► DLI 1: National accreditation system established and functioning (Text, Custom)

| | Baseline | Actual (Previous) | Actual (Current) | End Target |
|-------|--|-------------------|--|---|
| Value | A QAAA with functional autonomy established at UGC | In Progress | Formal establishment of QAAA awaiting GON approval. Accreditation process continuing through an interim arrangement; three additional insitutions (cumulative 15) accredited. Five HEIs are at the Peer Review stage | A total of 125 higher education institutions accredited |
| Date | 30-Jun-2015 | 15-Jun-2015 | 30-Oct-2015 | 30-Jun-2020 |

► DLI 2: Performance-based financing extended to HEIs (Text, Custom)

| | Baseline | Actual (Previous) | Actual (Current) | End Target |
|-------|--|--|---|---|
| Value | 1.Guidelines for Performance Based Funding (PBF) of campuses published by UGC 2. Formula Based Funding (FBF) for autonomous campuses adopted by | Guidelines for Performance Based Funding (PBF) of campuses published by UGC; Formulae Based Funding (FBF) for autonomous campuses adopted by UGC. | One hundred HEIs from 55 districts have submitted application for participation in HERP, and their selection is in progress. 400 community campuses have been informed to | 1. A total of 135 HEIs supported with PBF 2. At least 10 autonomous campuses supported through FBF |



| | | | | |
|------|-------------|-------------|---|--|
| | UGC | | submit documents by January 14, 2016 to receive PBF based regular funds for FY 2016 from UGC as specified in the Guidelines | 3. Criteria for PBF based regular funding for community campuses adopted by UGC; and PBF based regular funds released to at least 100 community campuses |
| Date | 01-Jun-2015 | 15-Jun-2015 | 30-Oct-2015 | 30-Jun-2020 |

► DLI 3: Autonomy extended to additional campuses/schools (Text, Custom)

| | Baseline | Actual (Previous) | Actual (Current) | End Target |
|-------|---|--|---|---|
| Value | 1. TU autonomy campus rules for constituent campuses revised by TU Senate 2. TU adopts rules for academic autonomy of affiliated campuses by TU Senate | 1. TU autonomy campus rules for constituent campuses revised by TU Senate 2. TU adopted rules for academic autonomy of affiliated campuses by TU Senate | Two constituent campuses have submitted application for autonomy and four other campuses are carrying out stakeholders' consultations on autonomy | 1. Autonomy granted to 14 constituent campuses/schools of TU 2. Eight autonomous/accredited campuses or schools exercise academic autonomy |
| Date | 02-Jun-2015 | 15-Jun-2015 | 30-Oct-2015 | 30-Jun-2020 |

► DLI 4: Examination reforms implemented and academic calendar enforced in TU (Text, Custom)

| | Baseline | Actual (Previous) | Actual (Current) | End Target |
|-------|---|---|--|--|
| Value | (i)Academic rules of TU revised and approved by TU Academic Council for completing academic calendar within one academic year; and (ii) a plan for examination reforms approved by TU (with especial focus on centralized examinations) | (i)Academic rules of TU revised and approved by TU Academic Council for completing academic calendar within one academic year; and (ii) a plan for examination reforms approved by TU (with especial focus on centralized examinations) | Office of the Controller of Examinations (OCE) of TU has identified priority Master's degree academic programs for adhering to the announced academic calendar: second year (2068/69-2011/12 intake) Public Administration; and first year (2069/70-2012/13 intake) Public Administration, Rural | 1. Academic calendar of 15 program years of centralized Master's programs adhered to 2. Results for regular centralized Bachelors programs published within three |



| | | | | |
|------|-------------|-------------|---|-------------------|
| | | | Development, Sociology and Anthropology, Political Science, and Nepali. | months on average |
| Date | 02-Jun-2015 | 15-Jun-2015 | 30-Oct-2015 | 30-Jun-2020 |

► DLI 5: Academic reforms introduced: Revision of existing and introduction of new programs at undergraduate and graduate levels (Text, Custom)

| | Baseline | Actual (Previous) | Actual (Current) | End Target |
|-------|---|--|--|---|
| Value | Areas of priority for new programs approved by UGC; and guidelines for selection of programs and institutions approved by UGC | Areas of priority for new programs approved by UGC; and guidelines for selection of programs and institutions approved by UGC; | Call for proposals from HEIs for revision of existing academic programs and introduction of new academic programs is in progress | A total of 140 programs revised or introduced and implemented (new programs: 40-50 percent) |
| Date | 01-Jun-2015 | 15-Jun-2015 | 30-Oct-2015 | 30-Jun-2020 |

► DLI 6: Poverty-targeted financial support for under-privileged students (Text, Custom)

| | Baseline | Actual (Previous) | Actual (Current) | End Target |
|-------|--|--|---|---|
| Value | PMT processes for selection of students revised by SFAFDB; and database and process computerized | PMT processes for selection of students revised by SFAFDB; and database and process computerized | Applications received from 1,680 students seeking enrolment in the science stream at the higher secondary level; and applications have also been called for Bachelor level students | 1. Funds released to at least 9,500 students selected through PMT 2. A plan for sustainability of poverty targeted scheme approved |
| Date | 15-Jun-2015 | 15-Jun-2015 | 30-Oct-2015 | 30-Jun-2020 |



► DLI 7: Institutions supported for academic excellence in priority areas through RDI awards (Text, Custom)

| | Baseline | Actual (Previous) | Actual (Current) | End Target |
|-------|---|---|---|---|
| Value | (a) (i) Existing research guidelines reviewed and revised by UGC; and (ii) Priority areas for support approved by UGC (b) Parallel recruitment and promotion rules adopted by TU Executive Council | (i) Existing research guidelines reviewed and revised by UGC; and (ii) Priority areas for support approved by UGC (ii) Parallel recruitment and promotion rules adopted by TU Executive Council | Call for proposals for Research, Development and Innovation grants is in progress | 1. About 500 research projects supported 2. A plan for sustainability of research funding approved 3. At least 50 faculty members recruited and/or promoted based on excellence |
| Date | 15-May-2015 | 15-Jun-2015 | 30-Oct-2015 | 30-Jun-2020 |

Comments

Among the two sub-DLIs under this DLI the first one was completed on June 18, whereas the second one was completed on May 15, 2015.

Overall Comments

Data on Financial Performance

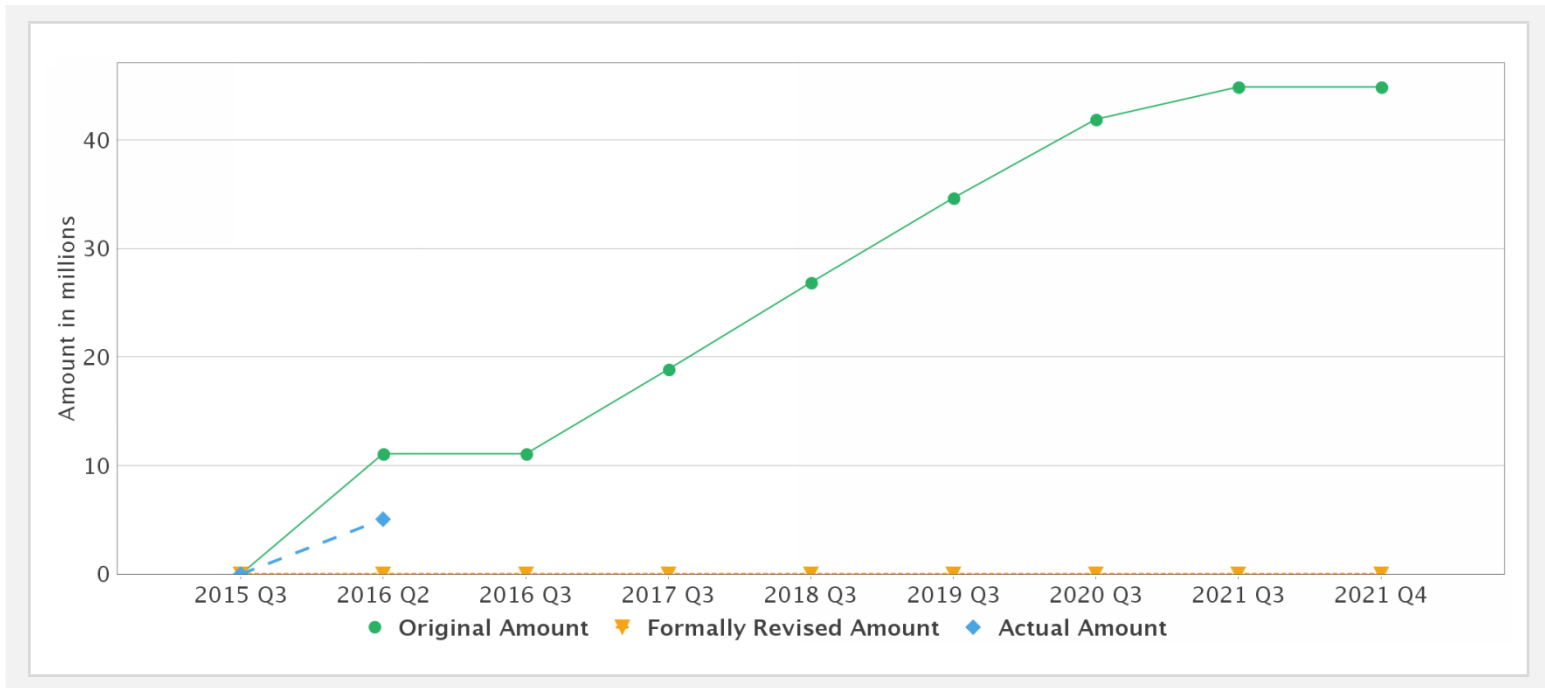
Disbursements (by loan)

| Project | Loan/Credit/TF | Status | Currency | Original | Revised | Cancelled | Disbursed | Undisbursed | Disbursed |
|---------|----------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| P147010 | IDA-55860 | Effective | XDR | 44.90 | 44.90 | 0.00 | 5.04 | 39.86 | 11% |

Key Dates (by loan)

| Project | Loan/Credit/TF | Status | Approval Date | Signing Date | Effectiveness Date | Orig. Closing Date | Rev. Closing Date |
|---------|----------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| P147010 | IDA-55860 | Effective | 19-Feb-2015 | 06-Apr-2015 | 22-May-2015 | 30-Jun-2020 | 30-Jun-2020 |

Cumulative Disbursements



Restructuring History

There has been no restructuring to date.

Related Project(s)

There are no related projects.