



EQUALITY FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY





ABOUT US

As founder and Executive Director of EQUALITY for Peace and Democracy (EPD), I am very proud of the progress and achievements EPD has made since its establishment in early 2010. At EPD, we believe that a state cannot be built effectively unless there is equality between all citizens regardless of any differences, state institutions are accountable to the people, and people are part of the state building process. I invite you to join our journey. Each person that volunteers for, works with, and learns about EPD and its activities is contributing to amplifying the voices of Afghan citizens and helps to improve the life of someone, somewhere in a remote valley in Afghanistan.

- Nargis Nehan



EQUALITY for Peace and Democracy (EPD) is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization dedicated to empowering women and youth at the community and policy levels in Afghanistan. EPD was established in early 2010 by Ms. Nargis Nehan, the Executive Director of EPD. EPD works to build the capacity of women and youth in order for them to be the front face in presenting their needs in development, peace building and democratic processes of the country. EPD further aims at mass mobilization of women and youth to contribute to overcoming the challenges of instability that Afghanistan is facing. EPD establishes platforms for women and youth to come together, establish networks, build trust and confidence, and strive jointly for transforming Afghanistan into a democratic country free of all forms of violence and discrimination.



VISION, MISSION, AND STRATEGIC AREAS

VISION Afghanistan is a peaceful, prosperous and democratic state, where all Afghans enjoy equal rights without any form of discrimination.

MISSION EPD's mission is to empower and strengthen women and youth at the community and policy levels for building coalitions and networks and promoting human rights, peace and good governance.

PEACE AND SECURITY

EPD works to empower and encourage the people of Afghanistan, particularly women and youth, to participate and engage in peace building, conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and mediation at both the national and grassroots levels. Besides working on these issues, EPD is also focused on the reform and strengthening of the security sector. EPD's work on security issues has a special focus on the needs and perspectives of women regarding security and participation of women in the security sector.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

In contributing towards improved governance, EPD aims to increase the transparency and accountability of public institutions for public resources and policies. EPD empowers communities by training and engaging them in the process of budget planning and execution and monitoring public service delivery and implementation of development projects to keep government institutions accountable for quality of their services.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Peace and good governance are critical to ensuring respect for human rights. EPD takes a rights-based approach to developing and implementing programs that empower all people of Afghanistan to know and exercise their rights as Afghan citizens regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, or other factors. EPD believes that women's rights are human rights, and empowering Afghan women is a key component of EPD's mission.



EPD APPROACH

EPD employs an inclusive approach in its peace building, good governance, and human rights efforts. EPD mobilizes communities at the grassroots level, initiates advocacy initiatives, and builds platforms where the public can come together and demand transparency and accountability, and better service delivery from the government. EPD proudly maintains itself not only as women and youth focused but also a women and youth led organization, requiring at least 50% of its staff to be women and 60% youth. EPD also maintains an all-women leadership structure. However, rather than focusing exclusively on women's issues, EPD is working in areas such as the peace process, elections, or anti-corruption issues with special attention to the needs and perspectives of women and youth.

RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

Identifying the roots of a problem or issue is the most important step towards addressing it. EPD therefore carries out research and assessments in the areas of peace, human rights, gender and governance to identify the roots causes of the issues and their impacts. EPD uses its research as a strong base and reference for its program development and advocacy initiatives.

TRAINING CAPACITY BUILDING

EPD focuses on training and capacity building as a means of empowering women and youth to take an active role as agents of change in their communities. EPD develops and implements capacity building trainings on issues such as peace, human rights, gender, governance, accountability, advocacy and leadership at the central and sub-national levels. These activities empower women and youth to identify issues and challenges affecting their lives and communities, build alliances with other groups, and address the issues themselves or advocate for solutions.

ADVOCACY AWARENESS

Public support is necessary to advocate for change. In order to have public support, it is necessary to raise awareness about the issues, challenges and opportunities and mobilize people for demanding change. EPD carries out advocacy activities at the provincial, national and international levels. For national and international advocacy activities, EPD joins forces with other like-minded civil society organizations and groups. For advocacy activities at the community and provincial level, EPD establishes platforms for youth and women, bringing them together, raising their awareness on issues and supporting them in their advocacy activities with relevant institutions.



PLATFORMS

PROVINCIAL WOMEN'S NETWORK (PWN)

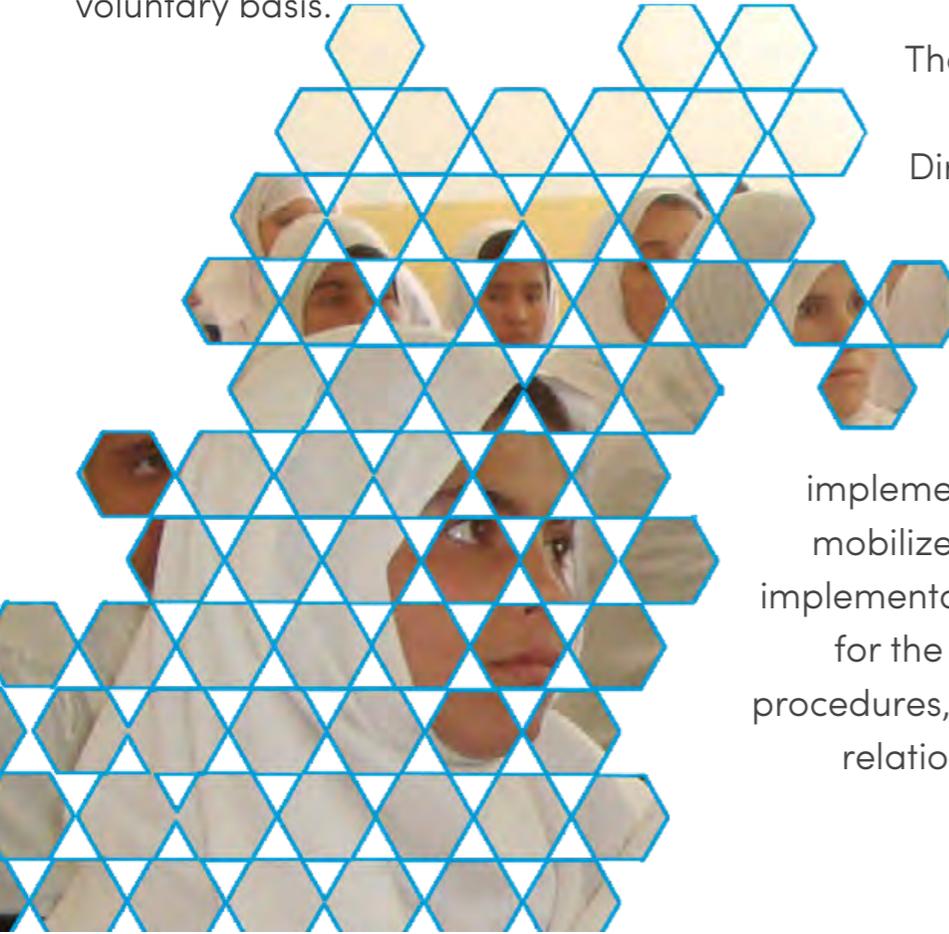
EPD established the Provincial Women's Network (PWN) in 2012 for creating a platform to bring women from different walks of life together for training and capacity building and establishing coalitions and alliances amongst themselves and with other groups in their communities. The members work to learn about the peace and transition processes in Afghanistan and their impacts on women's lives, promote peace in their communities, resolve conflicts, and monitor women's issues at the grassroots level. The networks also identify issues in their communities, which are affecting women's advancement and address them.

AFGHAN COALITION FOR TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY (ACTA)

The Afghans' Coalition for Transparency and Accountability (ACTA) is a coalition of experts and community based youth groups, women, elders and religious leaders who voluntarily promote transparency and accountability for public policies, strategies and resources. While ACTA's Advisory Committee in Kabul reviews national budget planning and execution at the national level, ACTA groups in the provinces monitor the implementation of projects and service delivery in their communities by relevant institutions and holding them accountable. EPD assists in establishing these networks, trains the members in anti-corruption, transparency, accountability, and community-based monitoring, and assists them in developing and implementing their advocacy and monitoring action plans.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The Board of Directors is responsible for the approval of EPD's strategic plan, annual work plans, annual budget, and organizational policies. The Board is responsible for the appointment and dismissal of senior positions in the organization. The Board provides supervision for the implementation of the organization's strategic plan and represents EPD in domestic and international events and meetings. The Board is comprised of a minimum of 7 and maximum of 9 members who serve for a three-year term on a voluntary basis.



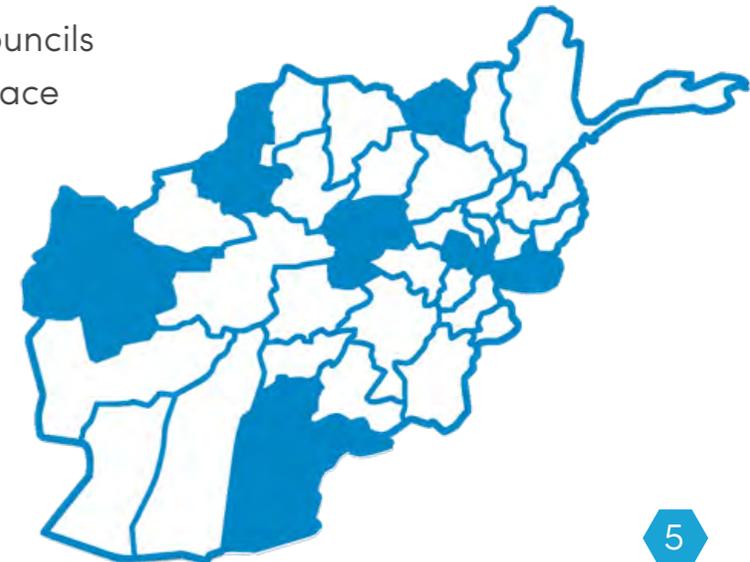
The Management Team is comprised of the Executive Director, Deputy Director/s and the Program, Finance, and Operational Managers. The Management Team is responsible for the day-to-day operations of EPD and its staff. The Management Team prepares and implements EPD's annual plan and budget, mobilizes resources, and supervises quality implementation of projects, and is responsible for the development of EPD's policies and procedures, including decision-making, media relations, communication, and advocacy.

DONORS PARTNERS AFFILIATIONS

EPD appreciates support of its donors who assisted EPD in achieving its mission. EPD works very closely with public institutions relevant to EPD's areas of activities to ensure government support of its activities and bridge the gap between people and government, as well as coordination across civil society.

- USAID
- UN Women
- Counterpart International
- Open Society Afghanistan
- GIZ
- Mama Cash
- British Embassy
- United States Embassy
- Dutch Embassy
- Tawanmandi
- United Nations Development Program
- United States Institute of Peace
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Public Health
- Ministry of Women's Affairs
- High Peace Council
- Independent Directorate of Local Governance
- Women's and Budget Commissions of Parliament
- Provincial Councils
- Provincial Peace Committees
- Civil Society Joint Working Group
- Salah Consortium

EPD has an active presence in Kabul, Nangarhar, Bamyan, Kunduz, Faryab, Herat, and Kandahar provinces.





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