

# EQUALITY For PEACE and DEMOCRACY

quarterly update

July- Sept 2015

## Promoting a Culture of Coexistence, Accountability, and peace for All

During third quarter of 2015, EPD was engaged in different activities such as elimination of violence against women through increasing public awareness, conduct of a research for estimating the cost of war and extremism as well as initiatives to involve youth in civil monitoring, through media stations.

From July to September, analysis of the data that was collected from Afghan parliament member for the purpose of reducing corruption through more female participation in the politics was completed. In addition, a research report on the cost of violence and extremism in 2014 was also finalized. It is regarded as an

ambitious step because for the first time it estimated the cost which Afghanistan bore as a result of war and extremism. EPD also mobilized youth to develop a culture of "netizenship" by using social media tools such as Facebook and Twitter hashtag to monitor public services and increase people's awareness. Besides, EPD continued to conduct its trainings on Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) law and 18 booklets to reduce violence against women, increase public awareness and support government institutions and community networks in Parwan and Panjshir provinces.

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in this update

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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. EPD aims at mass mobilization of women and youth to contribute to overcoming the challenges of instability. EPD has established platforms for women and youth to come together, establish networks, build trust and confidence, and strive jointly to transform Afghanistan into a democratic country. With support of Internews, EPD implemented activities to enhance the capacity of over 200 male and female youth members of ACTA and PWN for constructive use of social media to pro-

mote youth involvement in elections and governance by training them in basic Internet proficiency, using the Internet for reliable research and information gathering, basic social media platform use including Facebook and Twitter. EPD continued working with its youth social media teams to develop short videos to accompany the advocacy campaigns. These videos are focused on youth challenges and issues including unemployment, education and drug addiction. The Internews ACME team worked with EPD to edit its video clips and the video was uploaded to the online campaign.

## Utilizing Social Media & Filmmaking to Support Youth Involvement in Politics and Elections



## Researching and Understanding the Economic Cost of Violence & Extremism



EPD research department has developed a comprehensive research report on “The Cost of Conflict and Violent Extremism in Afghanistan”. According to the findings of the report, it is estimated that just in 2014, in addition to human capital, the Afghan government has lost more than USD 9.09 billion in different sectors such as security, reintegration, compensation, refugees and infrastructure. The research unearths the costs borne by the people and government of Afghanistan, assessing additional costs that will be incurred as long as conflict and instability continues. In Afghanistan, without calculating macro-economic implications, the cost of one year of conflict and violent extrem-

ism was calculated at USD 9.09 billion, or approximately USD 24.90 million per day. This figure is equivalent to 44% of Afghanistan’s GDP or 113% of the total of 1394 national budget of Afghanistan, and amounts to roughly four times the Afghan government’s revenue collection target for 1394. What Afghanistan loses to conflict and violent extremism in just one year could feed the entire population for about 1.37 years. Based on the average price of road construction projects in Afghanistan, the cost of violent extremism in one year could be used to build around 25,973 kilometers of new roads, or finance the construction of over 18 million wells for drinking water.

## Research on Gendered Aspects of Political Corruption



EPD completed its groundbreaking report on the “Cost of Conflict and Violent Extremism in Afghanistan” in August. This research was condensed into a synthesized advocacy toolkit focused on easily accessible infographics and reproducible materials that can be used by ACTA and PWN members as well as other civil society organizations for advocating to officials, policymakers, and local leaders. A Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted for provincial coordinators and consequently by their facilitation, our networks in seven provinces received training on main findings

of the research and some initiatives to address the issue. In accordance with these trainings, each network developed their own action-plan for conducting advocacy activities and incorporating what they have learned into their regular community-based monitoring activities. The Provincial Coordinators provided technical support in developing the action plans, which was required to include the community and provincial dialogues. Each province was also provided with Advocacy Toolkits to distribute as a component of their advocacy activities.

EQUALITY for Peace and Democracy (EPD), with support of Cordaid, conducted research of Bayan II Project based on which it will provide trainings and support to female politicians in order to increase their effectiveness and promote support for women’s political participation. Furthermore, the findings will help EPD in conducting advocacy on the importance of women’s involvement in different arenas, and the daily challenges of protection and participation of women around the world and in Afghanistan in coordination with authorities and law enforcement agencies. The collection of data for the research was com-

pleted on 15th July 2015 and during this period 105 members (MPs) from lower chamber of the parliament (Wolesi Jirga) participated in the survey. Processing and analysis of data was done and the first draft of the report is due to be reviewed by internal and external reviewers. Moreover, EPD is working to prepare a manual that is going to be used in the upcoming trainings and public outreach for female MPs and members of provincial Councils. Lastly, a documentary titled “Six days” is dubbed and will be screened for those working in police, provincial women affairs, justice and provincial councils.

## Training on Introducing Advocacy Toolkit and Community & Provincial Dialogues



Most EPD activities for the project supported by Tawanmandi in this quarter included screening of an Afghan documentary titled “Erada” and social monitoring through ACTA in Kabul, Nangarhar, Herat and Bamyan provinces. Since ACTA members had received trainings on social monitoring mechanisms, they monitored different sectors and services in their community such as schools, access to electricity and water, construction of schools and delivery of other public services. The screening of the documentary film in mentioned provinces was a great success because people from all walks of society, particularly youth, participated in the screening of the film. The

documentary contained an important message for the people that transparency is ensured when they monitor public services and corruption can be eliminated when authorities are held responsible. The documentary was greatly hailed and welcomed by the participants and they recommended that it should not only be screened in the districts of Kabul just once, but also in the rest of the provinces.



**Mobilizing community based civil society organizations and youth groups for combating corruption through ACTA**



**Strengthening Access to Justice for Women Affected by Violence through Proven Culturally Sensitive**

EPD, with support of The Asia Foundation (TAF), has implemented activities to reduce violence against women through trainings and supporting women who faced violence in Parwan and Panjshir. EPD’s master trainer conducted trainings for employees that are working or are active in different areas and institutions such as Department of Women Affairs (DOWA), male leaders or Community Dialogue Group (CDG) facilitators, Family Resolution Centers (FRCs), public servants and Khatibs (preachers). In addition, formal justice sector employees such as prosecutors, judges and police officers were also invited to these trainings. The curriculum was com-

posed of Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) law and 18 separate booklets which covered wide range of topics such as analysis EVAW law, mandates, criminal code, basic management skills, mediation and consultation in Islam, divorce, Mahr & Nafaqa (alimony), corruption from Islamic perspective, women’s role in family and society and women’s social and economic rights. Beside conducting trainings for the support of EWAV law, legal management experts successfully followed up and resolved six cases of violence against women in Parwan and Panjshir provinces; including cases of domestic violence, girls’ escape from home and girls’ access to education.

**Community -Based Monitoring in Faryab & Herat**

The newly established ACTA networks in Herat and Faryab provinces received trainings on community-based monitoring, peacebuilding and good governance with support of International Organizations for Migration (IOM). The aim of the project is to build the capacity of community members and establish a locally owned sustainable network, monitor delivery of services, peace and development processes during the project’s timeframe and beyond. The next step was holding a five-day training workshop in order to cover topics including community-based monitoring to resolve conflict; thus, laying the founda-

tion for the subsequent operationalization of the ACTA network. Throughout trainings, the participants developed their own Advocacy Action Plan, outlining their planning and implementation agenda that moves beyond the project’s duration and represents the localized experiences with government service delivery and the wider peace and development processes. The documentary ‘It’s My Money, and Where Has It Gone?’ was screened to 400 people in Herat and Faryab Provinces on several occasions.

The first pilot evaluation of Herat PWN took place in August. Relevant research tools were developed and members of Herat PWN participated in the survey. In addition, research department of EPD also conducted several interviews with community leaders, members of civil society organizations, provincial peace committee as well as employees of Women Affairs Directorate of Herat Province.

Meanwhile, the survey provided an opportunity to directly observe the performance of provincial coordinator and identify his positive and negative points as well as the challenges she faces. The evaluation report will soon be finalized, based on which EPD plans to evaluate other networks.

**Pilot PWN Evaluation in Herat**



First ACTA Bi- Weekly meeting  
Date: 1/8/2015  
Location: Maimana, Dowa Office

## New Staff at EPD

### Milad Malikzai Admin Assistant

Mr. Milad Malikzai works as Human Resources and Admin Assistant at EPD. He is a graduate of Economy faculty of Kabul University and has years of experience in the fields of finance and teaching, and has worked in different capacities for a number of organizations. In addition, he has also served as chief of field monitoring teams in 2014 Presidential Elections and 2010 Parliamentary Elections. Mr. Malikzai is proficient in English, Pashto, Dari and Urdu languages.

#### What are you most excited about working at EPD?

I joined EPD because it works for the empowerment of youth. Since I am a graduate of faculty of economy, my job as HR/Admin Assistant of EPD provides me an opportunity to utilize my knowledge and gain further practical expertise in this field. Similarly, I also feel proud for working for an organization which attempts to reduce violence against women, empower youth and is taking considerable steps towards gender equality.



### Marwarid Wakily Finance Officer

Ms. Marwarid was recently hired as Finance Officer at EPD. She studies Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) at Karwan University. With around a decade of work experience in the fields of teaching and humanitarian assistance, Ms. Marwarid has worked for numerous national and international organizations. She has served in different capacities for organizations including United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan (UNAMA) Coordination of Afghan Relief (CoAR), Caritas Germany and others. Ms. Marwarid speaks Dari, Pashtu, English and Urdu fluently.

#### What are you most excited about working at EPD?

I joined EPD because it is a woman-led organization and most of my colleagues are female. Although, I have some work experience in the area of finance, I would like to learn more and gain additional expertise by working in the finance department of EPD.



### Lailuma Samadi Program Intern

Lailuma Samada was hired as program intern at EPD. She has graduated from literature faculty of Kabul university. Prior to joining EPD, she was working for UNIMARS Business Group as Admin Assistant. Moreover, she has served as assistant teacher in Noor High school in Jaghori province. She is fluent in Dari, Pashto, English and Spanish.

#### What are you most excited about working at EPD?

I joined EPD because it is a great place for learning and I can build my capacity by working with skillful colleagues. EPD has always provided a friendly environment for its staff and everyone treats each other as family. For me, working with EPD is a great pleasure because through my work I serve my country. It also provides me an opportunity to eliminate violence against women, work for good governance and bring peace.



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### where we work



## How to Get involved

To learn more about our work and organization, email us at [admin@epd-afg.org](mailto:admin@epd-afg.org) or visit our website at [www.epd-afg.org](http://www.epd-afg.org).

Currently, EPD offers two platforms, Afghan's Coalition for Transparency and Accountability (ACTA) and Provincial Women's Network (PWN), under which college/university students or fresh

graduates can volunteer in different positions and be a part of the dynamic EPD team and gain on the ground experience of project management, event management, and operations.

To learn more go to: <http://www.epd-afg.org/working-with-us.html>