



Quarterly Update

January- March 2016

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

In the third quarter of 2014, EQUALITY for Peace and Democracy undertook initiatives to support peace building, women's economic empowerment and the reduction of violence against women and corruption. EPD has conducted national and regional symposia, hosting Afghan and regional experts to discuss the roadmap to peace. The draft of the roadmap research was based on comprehensive analysis by a coalition of civil society organisations. Both of the symposia provided the chance for well-known panelists to discuss different issues related to peace and stabilisation, in light of which the research is being finalised. EPD has continued to hold trainings in Parwan and Panjshir provinces, to promote women's rights through Islam and to strengthen women's access to justice.

Our PWN platforms now cover 15 provinces of Afghanistan: Kabul, Nangarhar, Herat, Bamyan, Faryab, Kunduz, Parwan, Laghman, Uruzgan, Balkh, Paktia, Kandahar, Daikundi, Badakhshan and Helmand. The members of the network hold monthly meetings, planning advocacy work designed to end domestic violence and monitoring governmental service delivery. To promote female entrepreneurship, EPD conducted a Rapid Market Assessment on the barriers which businesswomen face, particularly in terms of access to markets. The report included a focus on the vitality of different industries, and recommendations as to those most receptive to female entrepreneurs. You can read more about the launch event, and access the final report, [here](#).

- 2 National Symposium on Roadmap to Peace
- 2 Regional Symposium on Roadmap to Peace
- 3 Monitoring Women's Peace and Security In Afghanistan
- 3 Strengthened Access to Justice for Women Affected by Violence through Proven Culturally-Sensitive Approaches
- 4 Rapid Market Assessment
- 4 Women's Empowerment and Educational Programs
- 5 Gendered Aspects of Political Corruption
- 5 Women's Day Celebrations
- 6 New Staff at EPD
- 7 Donors, Supporters, and How to Get Involved



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New Staff at EPD



Abe Simons Research and Resource Mobilizing Expert

Mr Simons has worked on political and development issues on five continents, including on public health, civil society and security projects.

At Oxford, he focused on peace-building, and policies to promote international public health. In Laos, he helped to build up national drug rehabilitation programmes, organise training courses for counsellors and social workers and raise awareness about illicit drugs and reproductive health. He has also contributed to research and diplomatic projects in Washington DC and Buenos Aires.

What are you most excited about, working at EPD?

"It is a privilege to work at an organisation that has done so much to promote peace and understanding across Afghanistan. At EPD there is recognition that development projects need to be adapted to the local context, and that men and boys need to be engaged with resolving the challenges which women face. By interacting with both grassroots activists and policymakers, EPD is one of few NGOs linking up development work at all levels through its research, campaigns and advocacy."

Musawer Rahimi Finance Intern

Musawer Rahimi joined EPD as a Finance Intern in January 2016. He is currently studying DEL in Kardan Institute. He is fluent in Dari, Pashtu and English and proficient in IT skills. His professional interests are well-suited to the finance department, where he is able to utilize his talents and work with experienced colleagues to learn from their expertise.

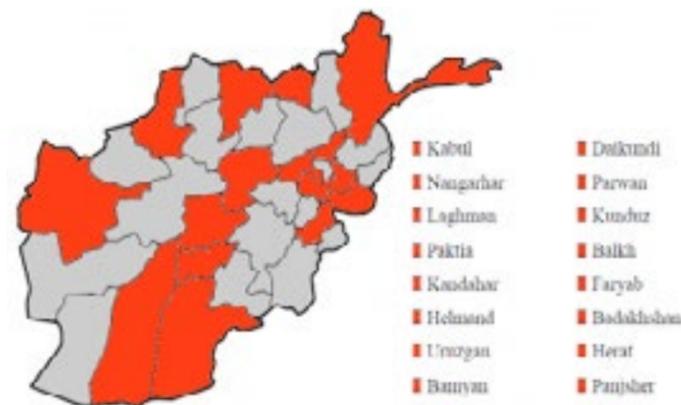
What are you most excited about, working at EPD?

"I am eager to learn, and I have found EPD to be a great place for capacity building and acquiring knowledge and experience. EPD has a friendly environment and I enjoy being a part of our team. EPD is an organization dedicated to working for youth and women, as well as on peace building and anti-corruption initiatives. I am very proud that by joining EPD I have been able to contribute in such work and to help my people."

Donors and Supporters

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EPD Coverage



How to Get involved

To learn more about our work and organization, email us at admin@epd-afg.org or visit our website at www.epd-afg.org.

Currently, EPD coordinates two platforms, Afghan's Coalition for Transparency and Accountability (ACTA) and Provincial Women's Network (PWN), under which college/university students or recent graduates can volunteer in different positions and be a part of the dynamic EPD team, gaining on the ground experience of project management, logistics, and operations.

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