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AFGHANISTAN

Hope for Women Civil Society Network

“Women-led CSO activity is a window for the capacity building of women civil society activists in Afghanistan”



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Fatima Naimi, in response to successful completion of Women lead CSO training package

“ACEP training package for women-led CSOs was the only training package which guided and motivated me to establish the Women for Hope Network, which has now 54 civil society organizations and youth associations as members from six different provinces of Afghanistan” Fatima Naimi”.

Building effective networks across Afghanistan civil society organizations is a challenge that must consider a broad reach across provinces. Reaching all areas of Afghanistan is key to the successful development of the country as a whole. For women-led CSOs network building is important in order to maintain existing rights for all Afghan women and also to ensure that both women and men benefit from development initiatives.

Activity 1.4 of the ACEP work-plan aims to ensure women civil society leaders and CSOs are involved in national policy development. During PY1 the ACEP CPI competitively selected 23 Women-led CSOs from different parts of Afghanistan to be invited for capacity development activities. The aim of these was to build the capacity of women activists so that they can more effectively participate in policy making and analysis of gender specific legislation.

ACEP delivered a series of trainings to 23 women-led CSOs in the areas of research, gender integration, advocacy, communication and networking. .

New Message for Afghan Women Organization (NAMWO) is one of the women-led CSOs that participated in these trainings. NAMWO is headed by Dr. Fatima Naimi and is located in the Daikondi province of Afghanistan.

After successful completion of this program, NAMWO's Director was inspired to establish a Civil Society network by the name of *Hope for Women Network*. The network was formally announced in February 2015 and includes membership of 54 Civil Society organizations and youth associations from Kabul, Ghazni, Bamyan, Daikondi, Herat and Ghor provinces.

Mrs. Naimi stated that CPI is the only organization which gives value to women and the women-led CSO activity was one of the best capacity building programs that she has participated in. She added that “it was my dream to establish a civil society network for youth and women in the central highland provinces but I had no idea how to establish that. But when NAMWO was selected as partner in women lead CSO activity, I learned about networking and how to establish a network. That training really helped me to establish this network”.