

Environmental Protection  
Trainings and Development  
Organization (EPTDO)

## Annual Report

2023 | 1402

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We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the partners who have provided significant support and opportunities for the EPTDO organization to leverage their experiences, lessons learned, and directly or indirectly benefited from their financial pledges and commitments. The EPTDO organization is especially thankful to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) management team for their commitment and technical cooperation and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). We would also like to extend our appreciation to the UNAMA office for their consideration of Afghanistan's climate change issues and their consistent support for NGOs. We are grateful to the delegates of the EU Commission for their valuable time and cooperation, the tUrN climate awareness project management lead, and the global advisory board members from the USA for their dedicated technical commitment and collaborations. Furthermore, we extend our gratitude to the Stop Ecocide Organization - UK for providing a partnership opportunity for EPTDO.

We are also grateful to other national and international organizations that have provided assistance directly or indirectly to the EPTDO organization. These collaborations have not only supported local NGOs in staying committed but have also extended their assistance and support to local communities through various means.

Finally, the EPTDO organization is thankful to its management, board members, executive committee, experts, specialists, and all employees who have consistently dedicated their efforts to addressing Afghanistan's climate change issues.

The EPTDO organization remains dedicated to working closely with its partners and implementing projects in every part of the country to serve communities affected by climate change.

## Climate Change and solutions in Afghanistan

How climate change impacted the lives of millions of Afghans and what are the solutions



Abdulhadi Achakzai - Founder and Director of EPTDO

Environmental Protection Trainings and Development Organization (EPTDO) is a specialized organization in Afghanistan dedicated to climate change mitigation and environmental protection. Our mission is to reduce or eliminate the impacts of climate change, advocate for climate change issues, and collaborate with national and international partners to promote climate change consideration and resilience. To address these critical issues, EPTDO has successfully implemented various on-budget and off-budget activities across different regions of the country. These initiatives have focused on mitigating climate change impacts, enhancing environmental protection measures, and fostering sustainable development practices. We have conducted capacity-building trainings, awareness campaigns, and community-based projects to empower local communities in adopting climate-friendly practices and adapting to climate change.

In addition, EPTDO organization actively participates in national and international climate change advocacy. This organization has organized and attended numerous conferences, workshops, and forums to raise awareness about climate change, share best practices, and collaborate with like-minded organizations and stakeholders. These activities include sharing information about the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COPs) and encouraging the participation of individuals in these important conferences. Furthermore, EPTDO conducts sessions and events to advocate for climate change issues in Afghanistan and address its vulnerabilities, urging donors and international organizations to prioritize climate change in their agendas and support relevant initiatives in Afghanistan.

EPTDO has submitted proposals to different international organizations aimed to secure partnerships for funding and implement effective projects in all regions of the country. Throughout this process, EPTDO's proposal was accepted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Non-Governmental Organizations/Civil Society Organizations (NGOs/CSOs), Capacity Support Project (NCCSP) for Low-Value Grant (LVG). The EPTDO organization started implementing this project in Urozgan province in November 2023. The primary objective of the project is to strengthen the technical capacities of local communities through small-scale business and build resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change.

By combining our expertise, partnerships, and proactive engagement, EPTDO strives to contribute significantly to global efforts in combating climate change and ensuring a sustainable future for Afghanistan and beyond.

The EPTDO organization remains committed to its mission and looks forward to continuing impactful work in the field of climate change and environmental protection.



*UNDP-NCCSP funded project opening ceremony in Urozgan*

During the reporting period, the management of EPTDO organization conducted and actively participated in various conferences and meetings with both national and international organizations. The primary objective of these meetings and conferences was to advocate for climate change issues in Afghanistan. Additionally, the organization aimed to disseminate information about the UN Conferences to provide a comprehensive understanding of Afghanistan's current context on a global scale. Furthermore, the organization sought consensus and support for future COP conferences, demonstrating their commitment to addressing climate change at international forums. These conferences and meetings served as vital platforms for EPTDO's management to engage with key stakeholders and decision-makers in the field of climate change. By attending these events, the organization aimed to raise awareness about the urgent need for climate action in Afghanistan and garner support for initiatives and policies that address the country's specific challenges. EPTDO's participation in these gatherings also provided an opportunity to share valuable insights and experiences from previous UN conferences, highlighting the progress made in tackling climate change within Afghanistan. The organization emphasized the importance of global cooperation and collaboration in addressing climate-related issues and stressed the need for continued efforts to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities in the country.

Furthermore, EPTDO's management actively sought consent and endorsement from national and international stakeholders for their future involvement in COP conferences. By securing support and consensus, the organization aimed to strengthen its position as a recognized and influential participant in these global climate summits. This endorsement would enable EPTDO to effectively advocate for Afghanistan's climate priorities, propose innovative solutions, and contribute to shaping international climate policies and agreements.

Through their active engagement in conferences and meetings, EPTDO's management displayed their commitment to the cause of climate change in Afghanistan and their determination to collaborate with national and international partners in addressing this pressing global issue. These efforts aimed to ensure that Afghanistan's unique challenges and perspectives are effectively represented and considered in the global climate change discourse and decision-making processes.

No.	Meeting/session	Meeting/Session name
1	Individual meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with the UNDP resident representative to Afghanistan</li> <li>• Meeting with the country director of ACF</li> <li>• Meeting with UNAMA representative in Kabul</li> <li>• Meeting with the program manager of NRC</li> <li>• Follow up meeting with the Deputy Resident Representative for Programme of UNDP regarding EPTDO preparation for COP28</li> </ul>
2	Advocacy/climate change sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU-Commission conducted High-level table discussion on climate change issues in Afghanistan, EPTDO participated</li> <li>• EPTDO delivered a presentation to the FSAC cluster members</li> <li>• EPTDO organization delivered a presentation at the International youth day</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EPTDO organized climate change consultative conference with climate change experts, specialists and practitioners.</li> <li>• EPTDO organization delivered a presentation to the GIHA working group member</li> <li>• EPTDO delivered a presentation to Foreign, Commonwealth &amp; Development Office (FCDO) – UK</li> <li>• EPTDO delivered a presentation to the tUrn Project members and other senior students at the Santa Clara University in California, USA.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcomes</b>		
<p>The EPTDO organization successfully established new networks and connections with UN agencies, international organizations, and various national institutions. During these meetings and advocacy sessions, the EPTDO organization effectively communicated its key functions and engaged in discussions regarding its advocacy efforts at both national and international levels. The individual meetings and EPTDO's participation in various sessions also provided a platform for participants from UN agencies, the EU Commission, and international organizations to remain informed about the decisions made at the COP27 conference, as well as to gain insights into EPTDO's preparations for the upcoming COP28 conference. Notably, UNDP Afghanistan pledged to provide financial support to the EPTDO delegates attending the COP28 conference.</p>		

## EPTDO organization conducted a conference in honor of World Environmental Day

June 5, 2023 World Environmental Day: The Environmental Protection Trainings and Development Organization (EPTDO-EVN) conducted an online event called "Solutions to Plastic Pollution" in honor of World Environment Day. The event was registered with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and aimed to promote practical solutions and bring together experts, policymakers, and civil society representatives to discuss the challenges and opportunities related to plastic waste management in Afghanistan and around the world.

EPTDO-EVN is an accredited organization with UNEP and is actively working towards environmental protection and livelihood improvement in Afghanistan. The organization has been conducting public awareness campaigns and training sessions to educate students and community members about environmental issues. The EPTDO-EVN conducted this online event on "Solutions to Plastic Pollution" on June 5, 2023, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The event brought together a diverse group of participants, including experts, policymakers, and civil society representatives, to discuss the challenges and opportunities related to plastic waste management.

The event was opened with a welcome speech by Mr. Abdulhadi Achakzai, the Founder and CEO of EPTDO, who highlighted the importance of addressing plastic pollution and the need for collaboration and practical solutions. The event was then followed by a series of presentations by four speakers and experts in the field, including Engineer Hussnimubarak Pamir, Engineer Rahimullah Badri and Ms. Samira Perzada. The presentations covered a wide range of topics related to plastic pollution and its

impacts on environment and economic implications, sustainable development, impacts of climate change on health and recognition of ecocide as the mass damage of planet. The presentations provided insight into the various challenges faced by Afghanistan in managing plastic waste, including the lack of infrastructure for waste management, limited public awareness about the negative impacts of plastic on the environment, and weak policies and regulations for plastic production and consumption. During the session, the speakers shared practical solutions and initiatives that can be implemented to address plastic pollution in Afghanistan and around the world. These solutions included promoting sustainable production and consumption patterns, improving waste management infrastructure, promoting the use of biodegradable and compostable materials, and increasing public awareness about the impact of plastic on the environment. The panel discussion provided an opportunity for the participants to share their perspectives and experiences on the topic. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Abdulhadi Achakzai, he ensured that the dialogue was constructive and informative.

The event also included a Q&A session, where participants had the opportunity to ask questions and share their views and experiences related to plastic pollution. The discussion highlighted the need for collaborative efforts between various stakeholders, including policymakers, businesses, civil society organizations, and individuals, to address plastic pollution.

During the session several best practices were shared to address the challenges posed by plastic pollution. Here are some of the best practices that were highlighted during the event:

1. Promoting the use of biodegradable and compostable plastics: Biodegradable and compostable plastics are alternatives to traditional plastics that can decompose naturally without harming the environment. Promoting the use of these plastics can help reduce the amount of plastic waste that ends up in landfills or the environment.
2. Implementing plastic bag bans or levies: Several countries have successfully implemented plastic bag bans or levies, which have resulted in reduced plastic bag usage and littering. Such policies encourage the use of reusable bags and promote sustainable practices.
3. Encouraging community participation: Community participation is crucial for effective plastic waste management. Several successful initiatives have involved engaging communities in plastic waste management through awareness campaigns, waste segregation, and recycling programs.
4. Promoting innovation and technology: Innovative technologies, such as plastic-to-fuel conversion systems and chemical recycling, can help convert plastic waste into valuable resources. Promoting such technologies can contribute to a circular economy and reduce the amount of plastic waste that ends up in the environment.

These best practices are just a few examples of the practical solutions shared during the event, and their successful implementation can contribute significantly to addressing the challenges posed by plastic pollution.

Afghanistan faces several challenges in managing plastic waste, some of which include:

1. Lack of infrastructure: Afghanistan has limited waste management infrastructure, which makes it difficult to collect, sort, and dispose of plastic waste in an environmentally friendly manner.

2. Limited public awareness: There is limited public awareness about the negative impact of plastic on the environment, and many people in Afghanistan are not aware of how to properly dispose of plastic waste.
3. Weak policies and regulations: Afghanistan has weak policies and regulations related to plastic production, consumption, and waste management, which makes it difficult to control the amount of plastic waste generated and properly manage it.
4. High levels of poverty: Many people in Afghanistan are living in poverty, which makes it challenging for them to afford sustainable alternatives to plastic or invest in waste management infrastructure.
5. People use plastics in states: If you look around the Kabul and other big cities of Afghanistan you will notice thousands of small children in the streets that they are collecting plastics to use for cooking purposes. The children are also collecting the plastics to use in the winter and hot their houses. This has become the main reason and sources of air pollution in Kabul and other big cities of Afghanistan.
6. Conflict and insecurity: Afghanistan is facing ongoing conflict and insecurity, which makes it difficult to prioritize environmental issues and invest in waste management infrastructure.
7. Limited resources: Afghanistan has limited financial and human resources to invest in waste management infrastructure and programs, which makes it difficult to effectively manage plastic waste.

Participants addressed their recommendations for sustainable alternatives to plastic that can be used in Afghanistan, some of which include:

1. Jute bags: Jute bags are a sustainable alternative to plastic bags. They are made from natural fibers and can be reused multiple times. Jute bags are also biodegradable and can be composted after use.
2. Cloth bags: Cloth bags are another sustainable alternative to plastic bags. They are reusable, durable, and can be made from natural fibers such as cotton or hemp.
3. Metal or glass containers: Metal or glass containers can be used as an alternative to plastic containers for storing food and beverages. They are durable, reusable, and can be recycled after use.
4. Biodegradable plastics: Biodegradable plastics are made from plant-based materials and can be composted after use. They are a sustainable alternative to traditional plastic, which is not biodegradable.
5. Natural fiber packaging: Natural fiber packaging, such as paper or cardboard, can be used as an alternative to plastic packaging for food, beverages, and other consumer goods. These materials are biodegradable and can be recycled after use.

Conclusion: The online event, "Solutions to Plastic Pollution," conducted by EPTDO-EVN in coordination with UNEP, was a successful platform for engagement and collaboration among stakeholders in the field of environmental protection. The event highlighted the importance of addressing plastic pollution and provided valuable insights and practical solutions for addressing this urgent issue. The efforts of EPTDO-EVN in promoting environmental protection and livelihood improvement in Afghanistan are commendable, and this event is an excellent example of their commitment towards achieving their goals. The event has contributed to the development of practical solutions and has provided a valuable platform for engagement and collaboration among stakeholders.

The United Nations Climate Change International Conference, known as the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 58), was held in Bonn, Germany from June 5-15, 2023. The conference aimed to bring together representatives and party members from around the world to address the urgent need for action on climate change. SBI 58 provided a platform for discussions on a range of issues related to climate change mitigation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy, and strengthening adaptation and resilience to the impacts of climate change. The conference also provided an opportunity for countries to showcase their progress in implementing the Paris Agreement and to pledge new commitments to further reduce their carbon footprint in preparation for the upcoming COP28 conference. The conference was expected to attract a diverse range of participants, including government officials, business leaders, international and non-governmental organizations, civil society representatives, and scientists. It featured a wide range of events, including plenary sessions, workshops, and opportunities for networking and collaboration. This conference was a critical milestone in the global effort to address the challenges posed by climate change.

The EPTDO organization, as an accredited NGO with the UNFCCC, was invited to this important conference. However, due to unpredictable visa and travel arrangements, the EPTDO team attended the conference through the UNFCCC's official virtual platform, which was also used by thousands of other invited delegates from around the world.

During the conference, the EPTDO team conducted a side-event called "Climate Change Crisis in Afghanistan." The event was attended by representatives from the Ecocide International Organization-UK, the tUrn Climate Awareness and Action Project USA team, and several other participants. This online session, held on the official platform of the UNFCCC, aimed to advocate for climate change issues in Afghanistan. Mr. Abdulhadi Achakzai presented the findings and adverse impacts of climate change on Afghanistan. His presentation addressed the vulnerability of Afghanistan to climate change and discussed opportunities to mitigate the impacts faced by Afghan communities. Additionally, the EPTDO team attended several other sessions and shared their insights and questions from other pavilions of international organizations.

In general, the SBI 58 conference was a successful platform for EPTDO to raise awareness about Afghanistan's extreme vulnerability to climate change and continue its advocacy efforts. The conference provided an opportunity for EPTDO to highlight the specific challenges and impacts faced by Afghanistan due to climate change. By participating in the conference and conducting a side-event focused on Afghanistan's climate change crisis, EPTDO was able to engage with representatives from international organizations, NGOs, and civil society, effectively conveying the urgent need for action and support in addressing climate change in Afghanistan.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2023, the Afghanistan Green Initiative (AGI) in partnership with the EPTDO and other national organizations organized the Afghanistan Local Conference of Youths (ALCOY). This conference was officially endorsed by YOUNGO, the Children and Youth Constituency within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The event brought together climate change experts, practitioners, activists, and hundreds of youth participants from across Afghanistan to discuss climate change issues specific to the country.

The conference spanned two days and featured a variety of sessions, including plenary discussions, academic dialogues, group discussions, and the recognition of outstanding essays, arts, and photography related to climate change. The conference provided a platform for meaningful conversations and the exchange of ideas on tackling climate change in Afghanistan. Distinguished lecturers from international universities in the USA, as well as representatives from UN agencies and other international organizations, participated in the event.

On the first day of the conference, Mr. Salim Khan, representing UNDP Afghanistan, attended the session and shared valuable insights on the climate change initiatives undertaken by UNDP. Throughout the day, lecturers, climate change experts, and stakeholders presented their issues and emphasized the urgent need for action on climate change initiatives. On the second day, Ms. Surayo Buzurukova, the Deputy Resident Representative for Programme at UNDP, actively contributed to the conference by sharing her perspectives and UNDP commitments to addressing climate change priorities in Afghanistan. Ms. Buzurukova addressed the UNDP activities focused on mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change in Afghanistan. Additionally, several climate change experts delivered presentations on topics such as extreme droughts and water scarcity in Afghanistan. The participants were then divided into ten different groups to discuss thematic areas and topics related to climate change. The findings of these group discussions were presented by representatives, and key points were recorded to be included in climate policy development.

At the conclusion of the conference, three outstanding essays, arts, and photography submissions were selected, and awards were distributed to the winners. These submissions were received from the youth participants prior to the conference.

The Afghanistan Local Conference of Youths (ALCOY) facilitated a valuable opportunity for collaboration, learning, and the formulation of strategies to address climate change challenges in Afghanistan. By bringing together diverse stakeholders and fostering dialogue, the conference aimed to drive positive change and promote sustainable practices in the country. The conference outcomes and discussions were shared with the UNFCCC through YOUNGO. Furthermore, the GAI-EPTDO team developed a climate change policy brief and submitted it to YOUNGO for inclusion in their agenda for the upcoming COP28 conference.

The Environmental Protection Trainings and Development Organization (EPTDO) as an admitted/accredited NGO to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) marks it as an eligible organization able to attend all conferences related to the Paris Agreement and Kyoto Protocol. Meanwhile, EPTDO is the only organization from Afghanistan that has obtained UNFCCC accreditation.

### **Executive summary of the COP28 report**

This report provides an overview of the United Nations 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28), held in Expo-City, Dubai, UAE, from 30th November to 12th December 2023. The focus of this report is to highlight the efforts made during the conference to address the adverse impacts of climate change on Afghanistan and the urgent need for global attention and support for the country. Additionally, an advocacy campaign was conducted during the conference to address the absence of Afghanistan from the global stage for over three years, which has had significant consequences for its 20 million people who are directly suffering from the chronic challenges of climate change.

During the conference, world leaders agreed on several significant moves to address climate change challenges. One important development was the approval of loss and damage funds, with developed countries pledging to contribute to this fund, which will directly benefit poor and affected countries. The establishment of a loss and damage fund has been a long-standing desire of the poor and least developed countries (LDCs). Additionally, the parties also agreed for the targets of the Global Goal on adaptation fund and its framework to support vulnerable countries. The issue of gender and climate was also recognized and addressed by the parties. The parties approved the initiative to stop the use of fossil fuel. However, a long-term plan was revealed in this regard.

EPTDO founder and Chief Executive Director Mr. Abdulhadi Achakzai have attended the COP28 conference to ensure the voice raising and advocating for the climate change issues in Afghanistan. It is fortunate that the UNFCCC provided an official virtual platform that only invited delegates were allowed to use and actively participate in sessions and plenary discussions. Through this platform, Mr. Achakzai able to take an active part in plenary discussion, advocacies, negotiations and other sessions organized by different countries, institutions and UN agencies. Based on the plans, Mr. Achakzai also participated and facilitated a session at the MONASH University pavilion conducted by the Afghan activists from different countries. The session titled "Forgotten Frontlines: Afghanistan's Climate Crisis and the Humanitarian Emergency" was highly successful, with a panel of four climate experts delivering presentations and more than 40 in-person and virtual participants from different countries attended. The session raised awareness about Afghanistan's vulnerability, highlighted the country's contribution to emissions as it is relatively low, yet it remains among the top 10 most affected nations. The session advocated for Afghanistan's inclusion in global climate change discussions, emphasizing the importance of addressing its climate-related issues to alleviate the suffering of Afghan communities. In addition to the efforts, UNAMA called on all stakeholders from the COP28 conference to move from awareness to action as climatic shocks and pressures continue to deeply affect the daily lives of millions of Afghans. "Afghanistan remains among the top ten most vulnerable and least ready countries to deal with the impacts of climate change. Nearly 20 million Afghans face emergency or crisis levels of food insecurity, driven by a third consecutive year of drought, economic pressures, and high vulnerability to other natural hazards – including two devastating earthquakes in the last two years".

## Report Details

The Conference of the Parties (COP) serves as a critical platform for world leaders to come together and discuss their country's contributions and challenges in addressing climate change. The 28th session of the United Nations (COP28) brought together over 85,000 attendees, including head of states, government officials, diplomats, international industry leaders, private sector representatives, academics, experts, youth, and non-state actors from nearly 200 countries. The conference took place in the Expo-City Dubai, UAE from November 30 to December 12, 2023 with the aim of expediting the transition to a clean-energy future. This gathering provided extraordinary opportunities for sharing insights, progress, commitments, and contributions for the course of 12 days.

In the conference, the extremely vulnerable countries, particularly the Least Developed Countries (LDC), hoped to benefit from the opportunities and commitments presented by the state leaders at the conference. During the opening plenary of the COP28 conference, a historic agreement was reached regarding the establishment of a Loss and Damage Fund. This fund aims to provide support to the country's most severely impacted by climate change, particularly those that bear little responsibility for causing the crisis.

The Loss and Damage Fund is a significant milestone for the global south, which has been advocating for such a mechanism for decades. It recognizes the need to address the pain and suffering experienced by vulnerable and poor countries due to climate breakdown. These countries, which have contributed minimally to greenhouse gas emissions, are disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and loss of livelihoods.

The fund operates on the principle of holding the biggest fossil fuel polluting countries liable for the loss and damage experienced by vulnerable nations. It seeks to provide financial resources to support these countries in adapting to and recovering from the impacts of climate change. The fund acknowledges that these countries often lack the financial and technological resources necessary to address the far-reaching consequences of climate change.

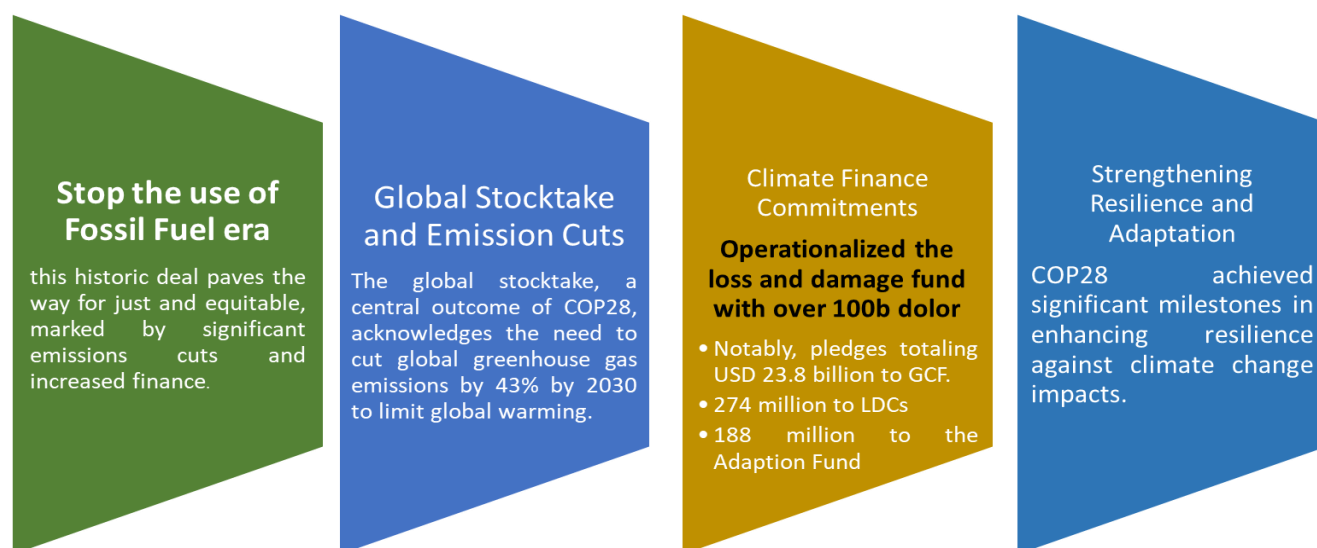
The beneficiaries of the Loss and Damage Fund are primarily the most vulnerable and affected countries, particularly those within the least developed countries category. These countries, such as small island states and nations with fragile ecosystems, are at the forefront of climate change impacts and face significant challenges in adapting to and mitigating these effects.

Another initiative announced on the last day of the conference was the commitment to phase out the use of fossil fuels. This groundbreaking decision marks a significant step towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting the expansion of clean energy initiatives. By transitioning away from fossil fuels, countries aim to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and promote sustainable development. This initiative reflects the global recognition of the urgent need to address the environmental challenges posed by reliance on fossil fuels and underscores the collective commitment to a greener and more sustainable future.

During the conference, it was also agreed that the Adaptation Fund would be made accessible to the least developed countries to enhance their resilience to the impacts of climate change. This decision recognizes the disproportionate vulnerability of these countries to the adverse effects of climate change and the urgent need for targeted support. By providing financial resources through the Adaptation Fund, the international community aims to assist the least developed countries in

implementing adaptation measures and building their capacity to cope with climate-related challenges. This commitment reflects a collective effort to ensure a more equitable and inclusive response to climate change, with a focus on empowering the most vulnerable nations.

Major Achievements of the COP28: The conference operationalized the loss and damage fund, established the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage, and outlined concrete objectives within the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA).



Since the Afghan government is not recognized by the international community, it may face challenges in directly accessing the benefits and resources associated with the developments agreed upon in the COP28 conference. This includes funds such as the loss and damage fund, adaptation fund, and other initiatives that are typically directed to governments.

### **Extreme Vulnerability of Afghanistan and COP28 Conference**

Afghanistan, a country already burdened by numerous socio-economic challenges, is increasingly experiencing the devastating impacts of climate change. Its extreme vulnerability to these effects exacerbates the existing difficulties faced by the nation. One significant impact of climate change on Afghanistan is the alteration of precipitation patterns and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. This has led to more frequent and severe droughts, floods, and storms, posing significant threats to the country's agricultural sector, water resources, and infrastructure.

The agricultural sector, which plays a crucial role in Afghanistan's economy and sustenance of its population, is particularly susceptible to climate change. Erratic rainfall patterns and prolonged droughts have led to reduced crop yields, food insecurity, and displacement of rural communities. Moreover, the melting of glaciers in the Hindu Kush and Pamir mountain ranges, which serve as vital water sources for the country, further exacerbates water scarcity and poses long-term risks to agriculture and livelihoods. The impacts of climate change also intersect with the complex socio-political dynamics in Afghanistan. The fragile governance systems hinder effective climate change adaptation and response efforts. Limited resources, weak infrastructure, and inadequate institutional capacity further exacerbate the challenges faced by communities in adapting to and recovering from climate-related disasters.

Afghanistan, as a significant member of the parties that signed the Paris Agreement in 2015, holds substantial relevance and deserves representation at the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Inclusion of Afghanistan in the global summits is crucial for several reasons, reflecting both the country's vulnerability to climate change and its commitment to addressing this global challenge.

The United Nations 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) presented a unique opportunity for poor and climate affected countries, considering their vulnerabilities to climate change and the impacts that the countries are experiencing. Although, Afghanistan is among the top 10th most vulnerable countries, it is unfortunate that this country's climate change issues have been excluded from the global agenda for the past three years, denying the country the chance to benefit from global discussions and initiatives. However, the current situation in Afghanistan highlights the urgent need for attention to its climate change challenges. Afghan communities are already enduring the devastating impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events, storms, heatwaves, droughts, and disruptions in food security and agriculture. These issues have exacerbated poverty and led to displacements within our communities. Therefore, it is crucial for Afghanistan to have a seat at the global stage to effectively address these challenges and benefit from global best practices, knowledge sharing, and collaboration. Afghanistan participation in the global summits would enable the country to contribute its unique experiences and perspectives, advocate for its specific needs, and access resources and support to implement climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. It would also provide a platform for Afghanistan to exchange knowledge, forge partnerships, and establish cooperative initiatives with other nations facing similar climate-related challenges. Recognizing Afghanistan's vulnerability and commitment to addressing climate change, it is essential to ensure its inclusion in the COP conferences. By granting Afghanistan a seat at the global climate negotiation tables, the international community can demonstrate its solidarity and support for the country's efforts to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. This inclusion would foster a more inclusive and equitable approach to addressing global climate challenges and contribute to the overall success of the global conferences. However Afghanistan was not official part of the COP28 conference but still some efforts were provided by different stakeholders to raise the awareness about this country vulnerability.

Summary of efforts provided for Afghanistan during the COP28 conference:

- UNAMA called on all stakeholders from the COP28 conference to move from awareness to action as climatic shocks and pressures continue to deeply affect the daily lives of millions of Afghans.
- On 10<sup>th</sup> December, Afghan climate activists conducted a side-vent at the MONASH University pavilion. The session titled "Forgotten Frontlines: Afghanistan's Climate Crisis and the Humanitarian Emergency, where 40 people from different countries participated in person and online.
- Abdulhadi Achakzai attended several side-events through the UNFCCC virtual platform, he shared questions with the panelists regarding their insights to support affected countries like Afghanistan.
- Several international news reported the exclusion of Afghanistan from the COP28 conference and addressed its effects.

## Recommendations

To address Afghanistan's current vulnerability at the national and international levels and respond urgently to the emergency situation, it is crucial to establish Afghanistan Climate Fund (ACF) and secure access to global pledges through various means. This fund will serve as an initiative to bring together national and international organizations working in Afghanistan, enabling them to contribute to a specific platform. To achieve this, conducting several meetings and facilitating regular gatherings of all organizations is of utmost importance. Through this platform, organizations will have the opportunity to share their experiences, insights, identify gaps, and explore opportunities for Afghanistan.

The primary objective of the Afghanistan Climate Fund (ACF) will be to create a unified voice and establish mechanisms to attract multiple organizations. It will facilitate access to commitments from around the world, particularly in relation to climate change funds dedicated to addressing loss and damage, the Least Developed Countries Fund, the Adaptation Fund, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and other international organizations that have pledged to provide support for affected and developing countries.

This platform will serve as climate change cluster within UN Agencies, International Organizations and national NGOs. One of the examples for this fund could be Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF) within OCHA and Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan. Through the platform, international organizations working in Afghanistan will convene monthly meetings to discuss the major challenges faced by Afghanistan regarding climate change. This initiative aims to establish mechanisms among non-governmental organizations to address climate change in Afghanistan while the country remains excluded from the global stages. Additionally, the initiative will provide options and proposals to the Loss and Damage Fund, Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund, and other stakeholders to take alternative action in Afghanistan until the recognition of the Afghan government.

Establishing this fund will involve several steps, with the first step being the establishment of a dialogue center in Afghanistan. The dialogue process will encompass multiple levels, which are as follows:

1. Engagement of International Organizations: Engaging national and international NGOs including UN agencies, world bank, EU Commission and etc. to provide collaborations, find more options for addressing urgency of climate change, share experiences and provide insights regarding the alternative ways such as establishment of Afghanistan Climate Fund (ACF) to include Afghanistan benefit from the loss and damage fund and etc.
2. Local-level dialogues: Establish regional and local level consultative and capacity building program. This program will cover all 34 provinces to identify climate change gaps, measure approaches, and engage communities. These dialogues will include community leaders, district council members, tribal elders, civil societies, and women's groups. District governors and other government officials will also be involved through workshops, awareness campaigns, training sessions, focused group discussions, and consultative meetings.
3. Central government engagement: Engaging de facto authorities in climate change is crucial. Their involvement will be part of decision-making processes and capacity support programs. Through this engagement we aim to provide workshops, findings sharing, and organize integrated consultation meetings once in a month to secure their support and increase their capacities.

4. International Conference on Afghanistan Climate Change: Hosting an annual international conference on Afghanistan's climate change in another country. This conference will span 5 to 10 days and focus on discussing findings, opportunities, and including Afghanistan in the global climate change agenda. This conference will serve as a donor meeting through which findings and other key decision regarding alternative options would be shared. Key partners of the conference will include international donors such as USAID, European Commission, World Bank, Green Climate Fund, Global Environmental Facility, Adaptation Fund, FCDO, and others. The conference will feature presentations on district-level findings in Afghanistan, monthly meetings with international partners, and meetings with relevant international organizations.

Through this initiative, an agreement will be announced and shared with international communities, including UNFCCC and the Santiago Network managing the Loss and Damage Fund, Global Goal of Adaptation Fund, and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). This will facilitate decision-making regarding Afghanistan's inclusion in their assistance to provide fund for this new platform. The Climate Change Dialogue Center will employ national and international climate change experts and proposal developers to write proposals and submit them to the mentioned donors for resource allocation.

### **Impacts**

The establishment of a Climate Fund in Afghanistan is crucial to collect collaborations, assist sustainable future and raise awareness about the country's vulnerability to climate change at the local, national, and international levels. The establishment of ACF will play a key role in helping international partners understand the impacts of climate change in Afghanistan, enabling them to consider these factors in their decision-making processes for funding. Additionally, the ACF will provide opportunities for communities to grasp the direct impacts of climate change on their lives and stress the significance of including Afghanistan in national-level discussions.

Moreover, the Afghanistan Climate Fund (ACF) process will actively engage DFA senior management, encouraging their support for the initiatives undertaken by national and international organizations. This collaborative approach aims to prevent the rejection of support from these authorities. By effectively accessing international platforms, Afghanistan is expected to benefit from the Loss and Damage Fund and Adaptation Fund, ensuring that the necessary funds are allocated to the country's climate change efforts.

### **Management and organizational structure of ACF**

Management of the Afghanistan Climate Fund (ACF) requires extensive discussions among international partners regarding establishing the appropriate management system, mechanisms and platforms. National and international consultations are necessary, drawing on the experience of existing funds such as the AHF and Trust Fund. While technical and financial support from international organizations like UNDP is crucial, the aim is to establish this platform at the national level, making it appropriate for the management of the fund to remain with national organizations engagement.

EPTDO’s organization has been advocating to ensure a well-protected environment, mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change, and collaborating with national and international partners and stakeholders to address climate emergencies in Afghanistan. Following the COP28 conference, EPTDO developed a comprehensive report and disseminated it to national and international stakeholders through various platforms, conferences, and individual meetings. The key objectives of sharing the COP28 conference report were to:

- Disseminate key findings related to Afghanistan.
- Explore alternative methods for accessing global financial and technical mechanisms.
- Address the extreme vulnerability of Afghanistan.

Furthermore, EPTDO aimed to advocate for the establishment of the Afghanistan Climate Fund (ACF) as an alternative option. In pursuit of these objectives, EPTDO organized the following advocacy sessions and individual meetings:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Meeting/session</b>	<b>Meeting/Session Title: Sharing Key Issues of COP28 Conference</b>
1	Individual meetings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meeting with the EU-Commission Delegation to Afghanistan</li> <li>2. Meeting with the UNAMA Representative in Kabul</li> <li>3. Meeting with Geneva Call Office Management</li> <li>4. Meeting with the Country Director of NAC</li> <li>5. Virtual Meeting with FCDO-UK Advisers</li> <li>6. Meeting with the Danish Refugees Council (DRC) Advisers</li> <li>7. Meeting with the UNAMA Senior Representative in Kabul</li> <li>8. Meeting with the Deputy Director General of NEPA</li> <li>9. Virtual Meeting with the tUrn Climate Awareness and Action Project – USA Management Team.</li> </ol>
2	Advocacy/climate change sessions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. EPTDO presented the key findings of the COP28 conference at the UNDP-NCCSP project NGOs and CSO monthly meetings, which were attended by the heads of over 500 NGOs/CSOs.</li> <li>2. EPTDO delivered a presentation on the achievements of the COP28 conference and advocated for the establishment of ACF at the UNDP Afghanistan Climate Challenges and Opportunities Brainstorming Session. The session took place on March 4, 2024, at the UNDP office and was attended by the Senior Deputy Resident of UNDP to Afghanistan, UNDP project managers, senior delegates from AKDN, AfghanAid, War Child-UK, TLO, DRC, REHA, and other participants from various institutions.</li> <li>3. EPTDO organization facilitated a one-day advocacy conference organized by UNDP, with the primary objective of strengthening the role of NGOs/CSOs in climate action in Afghanistan. The session was attended by a diverse group of experts, practitioners, and stakeholders from UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs, CSOs, and academia, both in-person and online. EPTDO organization delivered two presentations,</li> </ol>

		<p>highlighting the key achievements of the COP28 conference and advocating for the establishment of ACF.</p> <p>4. EPTDO delivered a presentation to the members of the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC), with the presence of 160 NNGOs and INGOs. The presentation focused on the COP28 conference and the advocacy efforts for the establishment of ACF.</p>
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**Outcomes**

The EPTDO organization successfully continued raising awareness among international organizations about the decisions made in the COP28 conference and their linkages to Afghanistan. The meetings and sessions provided a valuable opportunity for the EPTDO organization to address the adverse impacts of climate change and advocate for the establishment of ACF. Furthermore, these meetings and sessions contributed to raising awareness, fostering collaboration, and promoting advocacy for climate action in Afghanistan, with a specific focus on the outcomes and initiatives of the COP28 conference and the establishment of ACF.

**Photos**



EPTDO projects



## **Project Overview**

The Environmental Protection Trainings and Development Organization (EPTDO) has been chosen by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as the implementing partner for the NGOs CSOs Capacity Support Project (NCCSP), which is funded by the World Bank. This partnership provides the EPTDO organization with an opportunity to participate in regular capacity building trainings for a duration of two months. Additionally, the UNDP offers regular mentoring, coaching, and on-the-job training to the employees of EPTDO. These training sessions are conducted over a period of six months.

Furthermore, the EPTDO has been selected to implement the UNDP-NCCSP Low Value Grant (LVG) project on behalf of the NGOs CSOs Capacity Support Project (NCCSP) in the Khas Urozgan and Tarin Kot districts of Urozgan province. The main objective of this project is to enhance the technical capacities of local women, enabling them to improve small-scale businesses, enhance family food security, and develop resilience against economic and environmental shocks. The project aims to directly support 30 families in Tarin Kot and 30 families in Khas Urozgan districts. Additionally, Women Self-Helping Groups (WSHGs) will be established in each village, with ten members in each group. These groups will receive the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to improve their economic status, food security, and resilience to external shocks. The project will span a duration of six months and will focus on two main activities:

**Activity #1:** 18-day training program was conducted for the selected 60 beneficiaries in both districts on poultry rearing, housing, management, disease control, and marketing. Upon completion of the training, the beneficiaries will receive five chickens each for their primary benefit.

**Activity #2:** 24-day training program was conducted for the selected 60 beneficiaries in both districts, focusing on kitchen gardening. At the end of this training, the participants will receive seeds to establish gardens in their respective areas.

The project aims to empower the most impoverished and vulnerable families in Khas Urozgan and Tarin Kot Districts, enabling them to overcome poverty and improve their livelihoods. Its primary focus is to provide selected impoverished families with the necessary resources and support to find sustainable solutions to poverty.

## **Approach and methodology**

Initially EPTDO organization conducted a comprehensive survey/assessment in various villages of Urozgan province. The survey was carried out in partnership with representatives from the Provincial Governor's Office and the Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock as a sectorial directorate. In the survey local communities leaders, community development council members as well as Grievance Readiness Committee (GRC) members also participated in the beneficiaries' selection process. A total of 30 families were selected in Tarin Kot and 30 families in Khas Urozgan districts. The assessment process involved using a specific questionnaire designed to identify the marginalized

communities based on predetermined criteria. Based on the beneficiaries' criteria, which considered factors such as socio-economic status, vulnerability, and specific needs, 30 highly vulnerable and marginalized communities were selected in Tarin Kot, and another 30 in Khas Urozgan districts. These communities demonstrated the greatest need for support and were deemed suitable beneficiaries for the interventions and services provided by the EPTDO project. The selection process was conducted in a fair and transparent manner, ensuring that all eligible communities had an equal opportunity to be considered. The involvement of local representatives and sectorial directorate representatives helped to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the assessment results.

### Project photos



### About NCCSP project

The Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Capacity Building Support Project in Afghanistan will enhance the capacity of non-governmental implementation partners in delivering quality basic services to the most vulnerable in the communities. The Project aims to target both operational NGOs to enhance basic service delivery, and CSOs especially, those that are women-led and advocate for women's rights, as well as supporting and advocating for persons with disabilities.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will implement the project, while the International Development Association (IDA) and the World Bank (WB), acting as the administrator of the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), have agreed to provide financing for the Project. This Environment and Social Management Plan (ESMP) has been developed for the Project. The purpose of the ESMP is to consider and develop adequate measures and controls to minimize and mitigate the potential environment and social risks and impacts identified during the project implementation<sup>1</sup>.

It is fortunate that the EPTDO organization has been selected as an implementing partner for the NCCSP project. Through this project, the EPTDO has been receiving regular trainings and capacity support assistance. Initially, 11 employees who hold management lead positions within the EPTDO organization were introduced to NCCSP, UNDP trainings. The trainings covered various thematic topics, and each training session lasted a full day. Hundreds of participants from various NGOs and CSOs attended each of the two rounds of trainings. The topics focused on major issues and provided participants with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills in the following areas:

- 1- Fundraising and grant proposal writing
- 2- Project planning and implementation
- 3- Advocacy and lobbying techniques
- 4- Community mobilization and engagement
- 5- Monitoring, evaluation, and learning
- 6- Human resources management and development
- 7- Financial management and budgeting
- 8- Strategic planning and organizational development
- 9- Gender mainstreaming and inclusivity
- 10- Conflict resolution and training/capacity building



These trainings aimed to equip the participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively address these important areas within their organizations and projects.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.undp.org/afghanistan/projects/ngos-and-csos-capacity-support-project-afghanistan>

## About the Network

In order to provide regular support to selected NGOs and CSOs in Afghanistan, the UNDP has established a national network called the Afghanistan NGOs/CSOs Network for Development (ANCND) under the NCCSP project. The primary objective of this network is to provide ongoing support and assistance to its members. The ANCND is a voluntary and independent networking body comprising currently 550 national NGOs, CSOs, and other networks. It was established in the early 2023s and serves as a coordination platform for NGOs, CSOs, INGOs, and existing networks throughout Afghanistan. The network's main focus is to support its members in effectively addressing development needs in the country.

The ANCND operates under a Terms of Reference and is led by an annually elected Secretariat consisting of 17 members during the interim phase. The Secretariat includes a network coordinator, a database management officer, a network coordination assistant from UNDP, six representatives for thematic areas, and eight representatives from various regions. The Secretariat, funded by UNDP, facilitates coordination, information-sharing, and messaging among all member organizations. They serve as the first point of contact for inquiries on NGO activity. The Secretariat is based in Kabul, while the regional representatives support its operations from different regions.

Thematic working groups/task forces closely collaborate with NGOs in their respective sectors, exchanging information and addressing challenges. Each thematic group is represented by a volunteer member in the network secretariat. The ANCND is committed to promoting collaboration, inclusivity, and sustainable development across Afghanistan. The EPTDO organization, as a specialized NGO in climate change, has been chosen to represent the Climate Change and Environment Thematic area within the ANCND network. This selection has provided significant opportunities for EPTDO to collaborate closely with other members, advocate for climate change issues in Afghanistan, and organize various knowledge-sharing sessions and experiential learning activities. As a representative of the Climate Change and Environment Thematic area, EPTDO can actively contribute to addressing climate change challenges in the country. They can engage in advocacy efforts to raise awareness about climate change issues, promote sustainable environmental practices, and advocate for policies and initiatives that mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Additionally, EPTDO can leverage their expertise to conduct sessions within the network, sharing valuable knowledge and experiences related to climate change and environmental conservation. These sessions can serve as platforms for capacity building, fostering learning, and promoting best practices among network members.

Through their active involvement in the ANCND network, EPTDO can play a crucial role in advancing climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in Afghanistan, while collaborating with other like-minded organizations and individuals who share a similar focus on climate change and environmental sustainability.

The advocacy conference hosted by UNDP-NCCSP on 10 March 2024 was successfully moderated by the EPTDO organization. This one-day event aimed to strengthen the role of NGOs/CSOs in climate action in Afghanistan, enhance the understanding of national and international organizations, and provide a platform for sharing insights and experiences.

The conference brought together a diverse group of experts, practitioners, and stakeholders from various UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs, CSOs, and academia. There were 50 attendees, both in-person and online, who participated in advocating for climate action and discussing the roles of NGOs/CSOs in addressing climate change in Afghanistan.

The event focused on adaptation and mitigation strategies, with the goal of promoting a sustainable future for Afghanistan in the face of climate change adversities. It featured plenary discussions and presentations by different participants, providing valuable insights and fostering dialogue on key issues related to climate change crisis in Afghanistan.

In addition to moderating the session, the EPTDO organization also presented two presentations. The first presentation highlighted the critical issues of climate change crisis in Afghanistan, shedding light on the specific challenges faced by the country. The second presentation focused on the establishment of the Afghanistan Climate Finance (ACF) as an option for accessing climate finance, offering innovative solutions for funding climate-related projects.

Overall, the advocacy session was successful in bringing together stakeholders and experts to exchange knowledge, share experiences, and discuss strategies for addressing climate change in Afghanistan. The conference played a significant role in raising awareness, promoting collaboration, and advancing climate action efforts in the country.



The Climate Crisis and Drivers of Conflict research project, undertaken by Geneva Call, aimed to investigate the complex relationship between armed conflict, environmental vulnerabilities, and marginalized communities in Afghanistan, particularly in areas under the control of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) and various armed organizations (AOs). The project sought to engage with both the de facto authorities and minority groups, raising awareness and advocating for localized and innovative approaches to mitigate violence against vulnerable communities worsened by the climate crisis. Through research and consultations, the project assessed the specific impacts of conflict and climate change on marginalized groups, including women and children. It also evaluated the capacities and perceptions of armed groups and de facto authorities (AGDA) in responding to these challenges. This project was funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the UK Foreign Ministry (FCDO) and implemented by Geneva Call in 17 provinces of the country.

The founder and CEO of EPTDO organization received a consultancy agreement from the Geneva Call office and worked as a key contributing consultant for this project. The EPTDO organization team successfully implemented this project through a hybrid working collaboration with another international consultant hired by the Geneva Call Office. The project had a duration of 6 months, during which the EPTDO team conducted interviews with marginalized communities and co-organized consultation sessions in coordination with the Geneva Call office. The specific tasks undertaken by the EPTDO team were as follows:

- Preparation of an inception report for the climate crisis and drivers of conflict project.
- Development of qualitative and quantitative data collection methodologies.
- Preparation of questionnaires for data collection and interviews with identified marginalized communities.
- Preparation of questionnaires for consultative sessions in three languages (English, Dari, and Pashto).
- Attendance and facilitation of consultative sessions in the 17 targeted provinces, including Pakistan. The session participants included government authorities, CSOs, women's groups, religious leaders, and community elders.
- Conducting surveys through direct interviews with marginalized communities in all targeted provinces.
- Preparation of draft reports for submission to the Geneva Call country office for review.
- Preparation of key findings presentations and organization of restitution workshops in all 17 provinces.
- Presentation of findings to national and international donors, accompanied by specific recommendations based on the findings.
- Submission of a final report (an exclusive report to Geneva and a summary report to be published on websites).



## EPTDO organization key activities in 2023

- A total of 15 climate change related advocacy sessions were conducted at national and international levels, utilizing various methodologies to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- EPTDO advocacy and other sessions reached out to 800 individuals from diverse institutions, providing them with public awareness on climate change. These individuals were equipped with a basic understanding of the adverse impacts of climate change on Afghanistan and how to combat the climate crisis.
- Additionally, 20 meetings were held and facilitated with multiple partners and international organizations, including UN agencies. Primary objective of the meetings were to extend networking and share the EPTDO organization activities.

- 60 extremely vulnerable families received 18 days training on poultry rearing and management. They were also paid daily 200 AFN for transportation and 50 AFN for refreshment.
- 60 extremely vulnerable families received 24 days training in kitchen gardening. They were also paid daily 200 AFN for transportation and 50 AFN for refreshment.
- The selected 60 vulnerable families received 5 chicken and feeds
- The selected 60 vulnerable families received 4kg per person vegetable seeds.

- The EPTDO organization conducted research in 21 provinces with the primary objective of identifying the severe impacts of climate change on rural communities and discovering sustainable solutions.
- A total of 250 marginalized communities were interviewed, and their concerns and key findings were shared with donors for consideration.

- The EPTDO organization received an official letter of accreditation from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- The EPTDO organization has been chosen as an implementing partner for the UNDP-NCCSP project.
- The CAID organization conducted due diligence and capacity assessments, and selected the EPTDO organization as their funding partner.

**Difficulties in securing climate change funds:** Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Afghanistan face significant challenges in securing climate change funds. This difficulty often leads to the discontinuation of NGO functions.

**To mitigate this risk, EPTDO organization considered the following policies:**

- **Diversify funding sources:** Explore alternative funding options apart from climate change funds, such as grants from international organizations, partnerships with private sector entities, or crowdfunding campaigns.
- **Strengthen networking and collaboration:** Build strategic partnerships with other NGOs, UN agencies, and international organizations to enhance fundraising efforts and increase access to climate change funds.
- **Enhance project proposal development capacity:** Invest in improving the quality and competitiveness of project proposals to increase the chances of securing climate change funds.

**Limited technical expertise and financial opportunities:** The lack of technical expertise and financial resources can hinder the effectiveness and sustainability of NGOs.

**To address this risk, EPTDO implemented the following measures:**

- **Capacity building and training:** EPTDO provided training and workshops to enhance the technical skills of staff members and improve their understanding of climate change issues and mitigation strategies.
- **Seek technical partnerships:** Collaborate with technical experts, research institutions, or universities to access specialized knowledge and expertise in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

**Political changes and government decisions:** Political changes or high-level decisions from the government have a significant impact on NGOs.

**To mitigate this risk, EPTDO has adopted the following strategies:**

- **Maintained good relationships with government entities:** Foster open communication and collaboration with government officials such as National Environmental Protection Agency (NEAP) and Ministry of Economy (MOE) to stay informed about potential policy changes and anticipate their impact.
- **Advocate for NGO interests:** EPTDO engaged in advocacy efforts to ensure that the government recognizes and supports the vital role of NGOs in addressing climate change challenges.
- **Enhance organizational flexibility:** EPTDO developed organizational structures and processes that allow for adaptability and quick response to changes in the political and regulatory environment.

### **Key Solutions:**

EPTDO organization has continue implementing the above-mentioned risk mitigation strategies to address the challenges faced by Afghan NGOs. By diversifying funding sources, strengthening technical expertise, and adapting to political changes, EPTDO has enhanced its resilience and continued to its valuable work in addressing climate change impacts in Afghanistan.