

Project profile:

Supporting women-led civil society organisations in Uzbekistan to build peace and security

Introduction

Saferworld and Istiqbolli Avlod will help promote peacebuilding and gender sensitive action by supporting women-led CSOs in Jizzakh, Tashkent and Namangan regions to work with communities (particularly women and young people), local authorities and law enforcement officials to address community security concerns.

Background

Since President Shavkat Mirziyoyev came to power in 2016, Uzbekistan has been recognised for its rapid pace of reforms in a number of areas. But substantial challenges remain that hinder progress toward a more open and rights-centred society. These include a repressive legacy and current harmful practices, distrust of the authorities, gender-based violence and unresolved community grievances that do not always receive sufficient attention from officials.

This project builds on previous peacebuilding work with partner Istiqlol Avlodi, part of the Istiqbolli Avlod network, which took place between May 2018 to May 2019 in the Jizzakh region of Uzbekistan. Under this pilot project, community security working groups (CSWGs) were created to analyse drivers of conflict and to plan and deliver community problem-solving initiatives with authorities at local and national levels. This project will build on the successes and collaborative platforms that have already been set up to support women-led civil society organisations (CSOs) that are part of Istiqbolli Avlod's network of partners operating across the country.

The project will focus on increasing the capacity of civil society to support CSWGs – established as part of the previous pilot project in Jizzakh – and will set up two new groups in the Namangan and Tashkent regions. These working groups will include a range of different people who voluntarily join as representatives of local government agencies, community activists (such as *mahalla* leaders), women, young people, religious leaders, minorities and the police. We will build the skills of the CSO network members – including on peacebuilding concepts, community security, and gender and conflict-sensitive approaches – and support them to accompany the groups in their work to address peace and security in their communities. We will also support the development and implementation of action plans to address security concerns and support advocacy and communications at regional and national levels.



Project location

Jizzakh, Tashkent and Namangan regions

Donor

United States Institute of Peace (USIP)

Project duration

18 months (January 2021–June 2022)

Partners

Women-led CSOs that are part of Istiqbolli Avlod's network of partners, made up of more than 20 CSOs from across the three regions of Jizzakh, Tashkent and Namangan.

Saferworld thematic area

Security and justice
Gender/conflict sensitivity

The four stages of the project

- **Project inception:** conduct outreach to introduce the government and 20 women-led civil society organisations within the Istiqbolli Avlod network in Uzbekistan to the project goals and activities.
- **Undertake community security assessments.** This research will identify the drivers of conflict and insecurity in the three project regions and strengthen civil society organisations' and Community Security Working Groups' understanding of community security and peacebuilding approaches.
- **Develop and implement action plans** which address the root causes of insecurity in communities through outreach campaigns and small grants to community groups.
- **Share findings from community security assessments and experiences implementing action plans** with regional, national and international actors to advocate for change. This will focus especially on national and sub-national authorities who are in charge of security provision in the country.

The newly established cooperative structures and skills built through the various trainings will also support women-led civil society organisations and networks to continue to address these issues after the project finishes.

Funded by



Implementing partners



Project approach

Istiqbolli Avlod and Saferworld will:

- Enhance understanding of the root causes and drivers of violence and conflict.
- Collaborate with communities and authorities to improve skills to address causes of violence and conflict; promoting jointly developed recommendations and mechanisms to reduce violence through dialogue with relevant officials and decision makers.

Project outcomes

- Women-led CSOs increasingly identify the drivers of insecurity, conflict and violence in their communities, carry out gender and conflict analyses, and lead on community security/policing and peacebuilding responses to insecurity, conflict and violence.
- Two existing and two new CSWs design and implement community-led action plans that address community priorities. Plans include the priorities of women and young people and the reintegration of returnees.
- Individually and collectively, women-led CSOs increasingly conduct evidence-based advocacy on behalf of their communities, holding security providers (including authorities) accountable for the delivery of inclusive and responsive policies and practices.

Photo: Staff from Istiqbolli Avlod, Tashkent office, during a small group exercise as part of a gender- and conflict-sensitive analysis workshop in Jizzakh, 15-16 of April 2021.

Saferworld is an independent international organisation working to prevent violent conflict and build safer lives.

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