



Project profile

Support to Tajikistan community-centred police reform

Introduction

In 2016, Saferworld began supporting efforts to deepen links between authorities and conflict-affected communities, establishing a solid foundation for cooperation between the police, local government, civil society and communities in Sughd, Khatlon, Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region and the Districts of Republican Subordination.

The project aims to strengthen and expand the community-based policing approach by increasing these connections between authorities and communities to identify and address safety concerns and build safer communities. It also promotes youth and women's involvement in security provision, including by working with women police officers, preventing gender-based discrimination, exclusion and violence and by promoting youth engagement through safe platforms that foster greater cooperation and peer-to-peer support.

Background

Our work in Tajikistan is centred on national police reform, changing the way security is provided and creating platforms for partnership between police and the public. We helped set up these partnership groups in ten communities throughout the country, and have also supported more than 27 communities to work with authorities to proactively respond to security needs and challenges they identified. This has helped build trust and communication on both sides.

We support the Ministry of Internal Affairs – the government department responsible for policing – to institutionalise a community policing approach in their training programme for police, and also to set up ten new community police partnership teams (CPPTs), support seven public councils (PCs) and refurbish ten community policing centres. These centres, including those along Tajikistan's borders with Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, allow communities and police to come together to tackle community safety issues, including factors that lead people to support or join violent groups. Since 2016, Saferworld and partners have established a solid basis for cooperation between the police, local governments, civil society and communities in all three regions and the Districts of Republican Subordination.

As part of this project, from 2018-2021, Saferworld will work with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, civil society organisations and communities to strengthen community-centred security provision and promote buy-in across other areas of Tajikistan as part of the national police reform efforts.



Project locations

Districts of Republican Subordination, Dushanbe, Khatlon Region, Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region, Sughd Region

Partners

Association of Scientific and Technical Intelligentsia of Tajikistan, Jahon, Lawyers Association of Pamir, Marifatnoki

Funded by

United States Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)

Project budget

USD4,387,565.52

Project duration

33 months (01 May 2018 – 31 January 2021)

Saferworld thematic area

Security and justice, gender and inclusive processes

Project approach

To promote community policing in Tajikistan, Saferworld and partners will:

- guide interaction with security providers – namely police at local, sub-national and national levels – as well as with civil society and communities to build trust and improved coordination between them
- support civil society and communities to advocate with authorities for more timely, effective and efficient security and justice that meet the needs of communities and respect their rights
- develop the capacity of and mentor civil society and communities on community policing and community security, fundraising and project management
- support young women and men to work together to develop projects that are inclusive of different groups of people and that are sensitive to the role of gender – ensuring involvement of communities and authorities to respond to young people’s concerns and challenge divisive rhetoric
- challenge ideas around gender roles that perpetuate conflict, insecurity and violence
- better understand what causes violence and support for violent groups, and help authorities and communities address these factors by sharing lessons from community policing. Develop skills and strategies with selected communities along the borders with Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan
- support the Ministry of Internal Affairs Women’s Association to promote the role of women police officers in Tajikistan
- support the Ministry of Internal Affairs to learn from the experiences of other countries on community policing in urban areas and pilot community policing initiatives in two major towns in Tajikistan.

Anticipated outcomes

- Selected communities are involved in identifying, analysing, prioritising, and addressing drivers of conflict and insecurity, including the root causes of support for violence and recruitment into violent groups. They support the work of new community-police partnerships along the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border.
- Local, sub-national and national-level authorities, including police, consult with communities on security issues, incorporate community concerns into their responses and operate to standards that are transparent, inclusive and legitimate.
- Civil society partners, public councils, and community-police partnership teams plan, facilitate and implement community policing initiatives in collaboration with relevant figures (including authorities and communities). They advocate for transparent and accountable policies, practices and services, that contribute to police reform, and the safety and security of communities.
- Communities, donors, non-governmental organisations and multi-lateral organisations are aware of community-centred policing initiatives in Tajikistan and respond to priorities identified through the initiatives that are sensitive to conflict and gender dynamics in different parts of the country.

Activities

- Develop ten new partnership teams between police and communities along the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border.
- Support the development and implementation of up to 45 community-led action plans to address safety and security concerns, including by providing small grants in selected communities along the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border.
- Support the production of a community policing toolkit, outlining concepts and practical guidance, and train representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs in its use.
- Mentor, train and accompany departments under the Ministry of Internal Affairs and regional police commanders in support of sustainable community policing in Tajikistan to strengthen buy-in and leadership. Use the approach to address the problem of gender-based violence, emphasising human rights and gender equality within policing.
- Organise one study tour for senior police officers and civil society organisations on best practice for community policing in urban settings and work with them to develop project plans for community policing in two urban districts
- Hold focus group discussions in selected communities to identify youth groups to work on safety and security issues, and support the proactive and meaningful participation of young men and women in community life.
- Support civil society organisations to conduct research to generate evidence and data for local- and national-level advocacy.
- Help set up a criminal statistics database for the Ministry of Internal Affairs.
- Set up a civil society platform on community policing, where organisations can come together to take part in dialogue, design advocacy strategies and coordinate meetings between civil society and authorities.
- Organise cross-border activities and share community policing lessons and experiences with civil society groups from selected border communities in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan.
- Coordinate regional experience-sharing and learning workshops for civil society and law enforcement representatives from the five Central Asian countries and Afghanistan on community policing.
- Coordinate an annual conference on community policing in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, to promote community policing within the Ministry of Internal Affairs.
- Increase the profile of public councils, community policing partnership teams and community policing centres that use the community policing approach.

Funded by



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