



## Project profile

# Supporting civil society and local authorities to address the drivers of violence and insecurity and promote peace and security in Tajikistan

### Introduction

From June 2018 to January 2020, Saferworld worked with civil society organisations (CSOs) and government inter-agency working groups to enhance understanding of the underlying drivers of insecurity, conflict and violence in Tajikistan, including those that contribute to recruitment into or support for violent groups. We worked with partners to address these drivers through community groups.

Building on the achievements of this work, this project will continue strengthening the capacity of community groups in five locations across Tajikistan and begin working in five new locations. We will use the existing network of CSOs to promote the concept of peacebuilding and community security within communities and with authorities, and support the implementation of effective outreach campaigns to address the root causes of insecurity in communities.

### Background

Our work with partners and communities has shown that the drivers of insecurity include: high unemployment (particularly among young people and returning labour migrants); the marginalisation of minority and vulnerable groups (including women, youth and religious communities) from decisions; poor education and limited social services (especially for girls), such as a lack of access to good quality healthcare; limited space for dialogue between authorities, communities and civil society; restricted freedom of expression, including religious freedom; and mistrust of police and repressive police behaviour.

Saferworld's peacebuilding approach offers an alternative to mainstream approaches. We seek to address drivers of insecurity by creating dialogue to discuss and find solutions to problems that stem from socio-economic and political conditions and which can lead to violence. Through seeking to address the drivers of violence, conflict and peace issues are analysed and people's real needs are met, which promotes sustainable peace and security.

The project will focus on community security and pursuing responses to insecurity, conflict and violence that are sensitive to the different conflict drivers within each community. It will strengthen the capacity of CSOs and authorities to find peaceful solutions that take into account how conflict can impact women and men differently. It will influence the attitudes and behaviours of communities, CSOs and authorities, including the police, to encourage their support for and adoption of community-led approaches, and build mutual trust and understanding between communities and authorities.



#### Project locations

Districts of Bobojon Ghafurov, Hamadoni, Isfara, Kushoniyon, Kulob, Nurobod, Tojikobod, Vahdat, Vakhsh and Vanj

#### Partners

The Civil Society Platform, consisting of 30 CSOs from across Tajikistan

#### Funded by

Public Affairs Section, US Embassy in Dushanbe

#### Project duration

12 months (August 2021–July 2021)

#### Saferworld thematic area

Security and justice

Our work will ensure that youth groups – including youth activists – are engaged, which will help us to better understand the needs and motivations of young people, and ensure that young people participate in the development of joint action plans that address community peace and security issues.

## Project approach

With partners, Saferworld will:

- enhance understanding of the drivers of insecurity, conflict and violence, and the effectiveness of existing approaches to security challenges by civil society and authorities
- further strengthen the skills of CSOs and authorities, and provide seed funds to the Civil Society Platform (a network of 30 CSOs from across Tajikistan working to enhance community security, including by problem-solving with community and authorities) and community group members to design and implement outreach campaigns that raise awareness of the causes of insecurity
- advocate with the government of Tajikistan and donors on the effective and sustainable efforts to address insecurity, conflict and violence to build sustainable peace

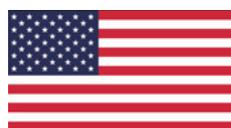
## Activities

- Conduct an assessment together with the Civil Society Platform and community group members from ten districts of Tajikistan, and use this analysis to publish a briefing paper on the drivers of insecurity, conflict and violence and the shortcomings of current approaches to security challenges.
- Strengthen CSOs' peacebuilding skills and understanding of conflict and gender sensitivity. This will include mapping out safety and security issues visually to explore links between them, and developing communication and advocacy strategies on community security concerns and ways of addressing them.
- Expand and diversify the membership of the new community groups to ensure they are representative of wider community needs. Organise exchange visits with active and existing community groups elsewhere in the country.
- Facilitate and mentor CSOs and community groups to develop and implement community-led plans to address underlying issues that drive insecurity, conflict and violence, including those that contribute to recruitment into or support for violent groups.
- Conduct conferences regionally and nationally to improve trust and cooperation between civil society, authorities and communities, and increase the awareness of authorities of inclusive responses to security challenges.

## Anticipated outcomes

- Selected communities are involved in identifying, analysing, prioritising and addressing drivers of conflict and insecurity, including those that contribute to support for violence and recruitment into violent groups.
- Local, sub-national and national-level authorities, including the police, are more aware of and increasingly consult with communities on security issues. In the future, they incorporate people's concerns into their responses, and operate to standards that are transparent, inclusive, and seen as legitimate.
- CSOs, public councils and community policing partnership teams plan, facilitate and implement community policing initiatives in collaboration with local authorities and communities. They advocate for transparent and accountable policies, practices and services that contribute to police reform.

## Funded by



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

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