



Shveysariya Konfederatsiyasi

Governance and Human Rights (Transversal theme)

Strengthening Local Civil Society and Platforms for Dialogue (CSO)



Enhancing civil society in Uzbekistan from the Ministry of Justice and Yuksalish to NGOs like Madad, TASKIN, UMID and Istiqbol to drive dialogue, advocacy, and inclusive local governance

Rationale

Uzbekistan's ongoing governance reforms and decentralisation agenda are creating new opportunities for structured and meaningful dialogue between public authorities and citizens. The adoption of **Article 69 of the Constitution**, recognising civil society institutions, the **2024 Presidential Decree** establishing national and local consultation platforms, and **Resolution No. 288 of the Cabinet of Ministers (May 2025)** mandating the development of a **new Concept for Civil Society Development (2026–2030)** collectively signal a stronger institutional recognition of civil society's role in public governance.

These developments create space for engagement at national and local levels. However, CSOs still need stronger capacities, sustainable dialogue platforms, and coordinated advocacy, as regional ecosystems remain uneven in maturity and strategic positioning.

SDC's CSO support programme builds on these reforms by strengthening CSOs and dialogue platforms, promoting institutionalised consultation, coalition-building, and evidence-based advocacy, while fostering regional exchange across Central Asia.

Country:

Uzbekistan

Duration:

2024 – 2028

Total Budget:

CHF 1'200'000

Partners:

Ministry of Justice;
local authorities;
Yuksalish movement;
Non-Governmental
Organization "Madad";
Mahalla Association and Mahalla
Committees;
Civil society organizations

Implementing Partner:

Self-implemented

Overall goal

To strengthen the capacity of local civil society to engage in structured dialogue, participatory decision-making, and evidence-based advocacy, contributing to more inclusive, transparent, and responsive local governance in Uzbekistan.

Expected Outcomes and Results

- Strengthened local dialogue platforms
- Improved coordination and effectiveness of CSO coalitions
- Enhanced civil society advocacy capacities to support reform agenda in Uzbekistan
- Inclusive participation of women, persons with disabilities, youth, and vulnerable groups in decision making processes

Programme Structure: Two Complementary approaches

Approach 1 – National Platform for Participatory Dialogue

This window supports a structured and inclusive national platform enabling regular interaction between civil society and public authorities.

Intervention focus:

A national platform uniting NGOs, think tanks, research institutions, and government bodies to facilitate structured dialogue, evidence-based advocacy, and policy discussion. It contributes to civic space development and channels civil society inputs into national decision-making, aligned with the new **Strategy for CSO Development**.

Approach 2 – Strengthening Local Civil Society and Coalition-Based Advocacy

This window strengthens coalition-based civil society engagement at the local level for coordinated and sustainable interaction with decision-makers.

Intervention focus:

Thirteen NGOs and civic groups are organised into **four regional coalitions** led by advanced NGOs, focusing on gender equality, youth engagement, and disability rights. Coalitions promote ownership and sustainability, while mentorship supports emerging actors in building capacities and integrating into broader civil society platforms.

Geographic focus

The project will mainly operate through intervention with coalition lead by “NGO “TASKIN” in the Surkhandarya region, NGO “UMID”’s coalition of Kashkadarya region, NGO Womens’ Center “Istiqbol” of Khorezm region and its coalition, and NGO “Tashkent Regional Association of Business Women with Disabilities” with its coalition, as well as the cooperation with big CSOs on the national level.

Contact:

Embassy of Switzerland in
Uzbekistan

Shota Rustaveli Street,
Impasse 1, House 4
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Tel.: +998 78 120 54 54
tashkent@eda.admin.ch
www.eda.admin.ch/tashkent