

Water Co-operation for Peace and Security: Empowering Women and Youth Leaders



Results and Impact

Why It Matters & What We Do

Water Management and Security

Climate change is reshaping water security in Central Asia, a region highly vulnerable to droughts, floods, earthquakes and landslides. These shocks place increasing pressure on water systems, livelihoods and transboundary co-operation.

Water diplomacy can lead to improved relations among countries and communities, enhance security and prosperity and protect the environment.

Why Women in Water Governance

Inclusive water governance is not optional - it is essential.

- ✓ When women participate meaningfully in water governance and diplomacy, water management becomes **more sustainable and equitable**
- ✓ Institutions are **more resilient to climate change**

Women must be an integral part of developing solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

(UN Women, 2022)

Yet women remain **under-represented** in water-related negotiations and leadership - a missed opportunity with direct consequences for stability and co-operation.

KEY FIGURES



60%

of the world's freshwater flows through transboundary waters

(UN Water)



As of 2023, **15%**

of countries still lack mechanisms to ensure women's effective participation and parity in water decision-making

(UNEP-DHI, GWP, UN Women, 2025)



Voices from the Region

Gender mainstreaming eventually results in truly effective and long-lasting water cooperation that gives broader results.

Oygul Usmanova, Uzbekistan

The Women in Water Management Network has been a consistent and tremendous source of inspiration for my career development. Through this Network, I have connected with numerous exceptional women dedicated to the fields of water and environmental conservation.

Lyazzat Syrlybayeva, Kazakhstan

Involving women in water diplomacy isn't just about equality; it's about improving the quality of solutions. Our voices bring diverse perspectives, empathy and a focus on the well-being of communities, which are essential for forging sustainable agreements and promoting cooperation over water resources.

Gulzhan Makhmudova, Kyrgyzstan

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Women, Water Management and Conflict Prevention

From Long-Term Commitment to Tangible Results

Building on OSCE engagement since 2014, **Phase III delivers practical skills, networks and leadership opportunities for women in water governance.**

Phase III 2023–2026

Geographic Reach: Central Asian Countries

Engagements take place at national, regional and international levels.

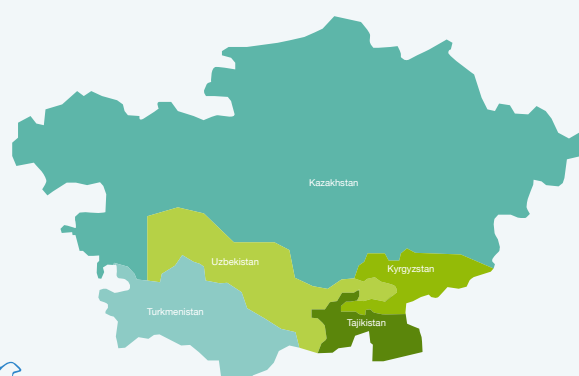
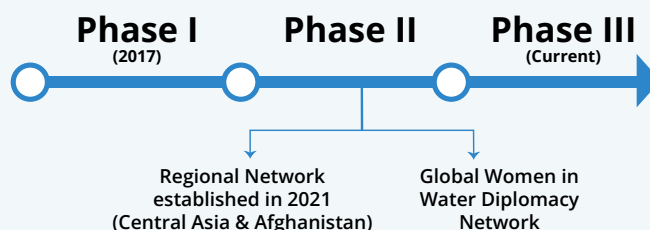
Focus areas:

Water governance • Water Co-operation • Gender equality • Youth • Conflict prevention



Objective

Strengthening women's and youth participation for inclusive and co-operative water governance



RESULTS AT A GLANCE (2025)

Capacity-Building & Engagement



10 capacity-building activities delivered in 2025



Hundreds of women and young water professionals engaged across the region

3 in-person engagements

7 online seminars and masterclasses

Skills & Knowledge Strengthened



✓ Water diplomacy and negotiation

✓ Climate change impacts on transboundary water management

✓ Data and information exchange

✓ Public speaking and policy writing

✓ Preparation for global policy engagements (UN Water Conference 2026)

Women in Water Management Network

(Established in 2021)



✓ Active regional network spanning Central Asia and Afghanistan

✓ Growing visibility in international and regional fora

✓ Part of the Global Women in Water Diplomacy Network

✓ Platform for peer exchange, mentorship and collective advocacy

CUMULATIVE RESULTS

(Phases I-III)

3 project phases implemented since 2017

5 Central Asian countries

150+ 
women and young water professionals engaged

Dozens of
capacity-building activities

Knowledge Products

- ☒ Gender Mainstreaming Guide on water governance developed
- ☒ **E-learning course:** Gender Mainstreaming in Water Governance
- ☒ **Toolkit:** Data & Information Exchange in Transboundary Basins
- ☒ **E-learning course:** Data Sharing & Digitalization in the Water Sector
- ☒ Knowledge products including podcasts featuring women leaders in water, climate and diplomacy
- ☒ **Drops of the Future** Workshop Series on the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus

Looking Ahead:

2026 UN Water Conference
December 2026

The Network is preparing a **joint regional contribution** to ensure women water professionals:

- ☐ Shape **global water governance** discussions
- ☐ Influence policy outcomes
- ☐ Bring regional perspectives to the international level

Key actions:

- ☐ Joint messaging from the Network
- ☐ Policy advocacy training
- ☐ Strategic engagement at global fora

Cumulative Results and Impact by 2026

- ☐ Stronger women's professional networks
- ☐ Increased capacity in **water diplomacy & negotiation**
- ☐ Greater awareness of **Water-Energy-Food Trade-Offs**
- ☐ Capacities of women water professionals in **water diplomacy, negotiation and conflict prevention** are increased

Aligned With:



The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.

For more information contact: Letizia Zuliani
Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Letizia.Zuliani@osce.org