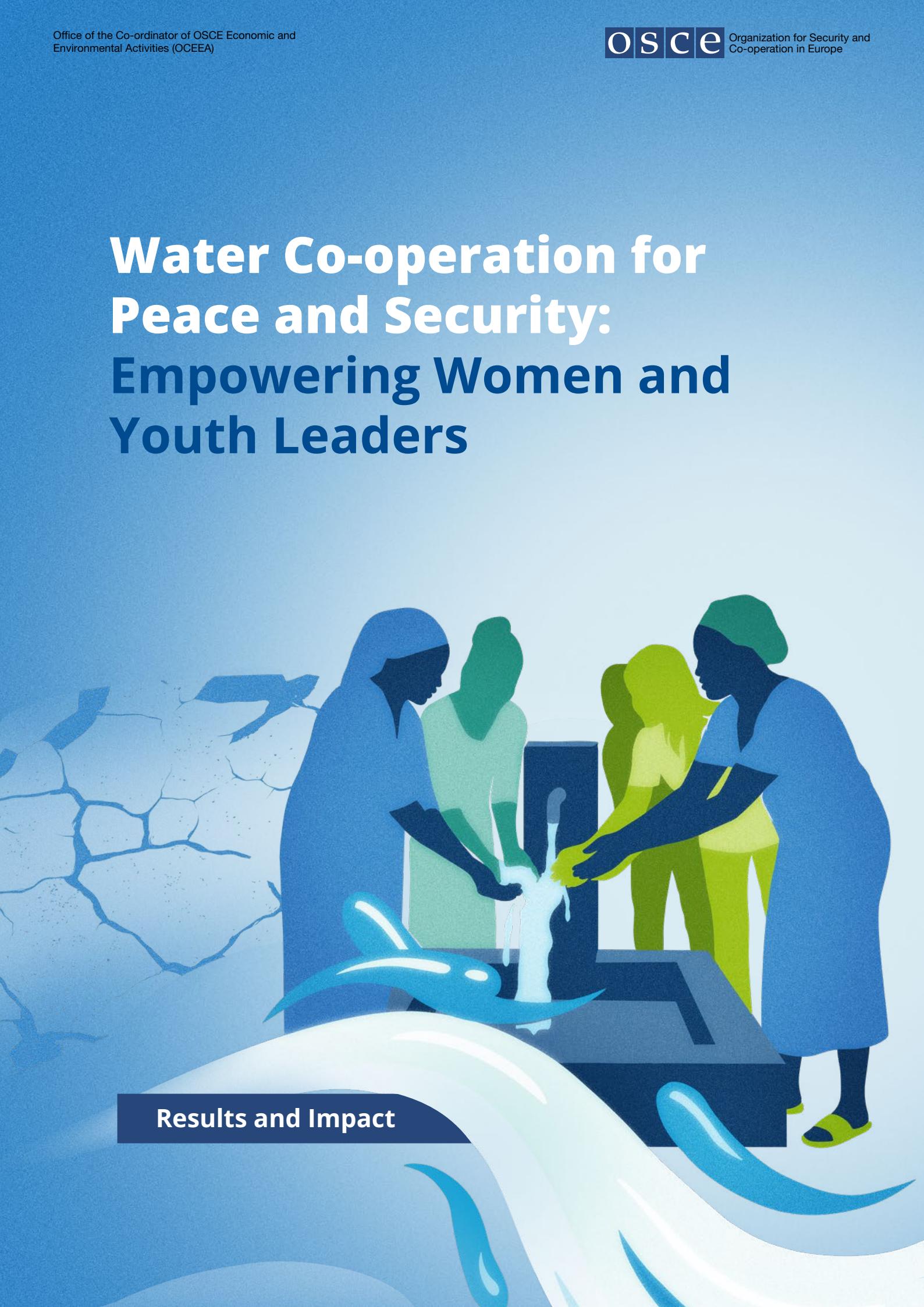


Water Co-operation for Peace and Security: Empowering Women and Youth Leaders



A stylized illustration on a blue background. On the left, a cracked, dry landscape is shown in shades of blue and white. In the center-right, four people are depicted: a woman in a blue headscarf and green dress, a woman in a green headscarf and blue dress, a young girl in a green dress, and a man in a blue headscarf and blue dress. They are gathered around a dark blue rectangular structure from which a stream of white water is flowing. A blue rabbit is shown drinking from this stream. The bottom of the image features stylized white and blue wave patterns.

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)



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.

Oygu 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.

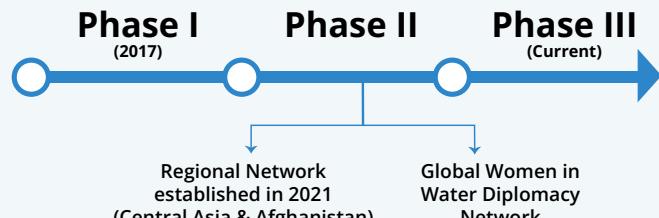
Gulzhan Makhmudova, Kyrgyzstan

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

- 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**

Cumulative Results and Impact by 2026

Aligned With:



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

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