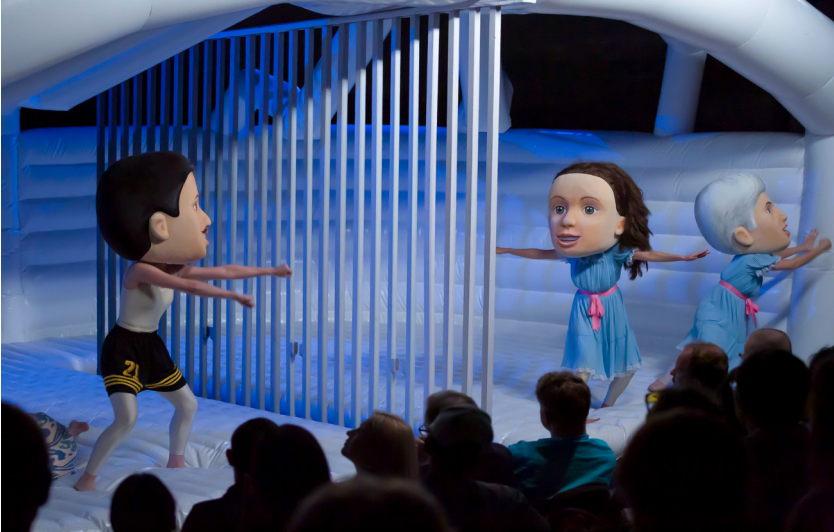




## Governance, Human Rights & Service Delivery (GHRSD) Central Asia Art and Culture Programme (CAACP)



*Ilkhom theatre, «Underground girls»*

Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan have a lot in common; they also harbor an impressive cultural diversity, both linguistically and regarding their cultural traditions. The cultural landscapes are characterized by the state-encouraged prevalence of folk-/traditional culture. In contrast, contemporary art based on free artistic expression and organized by independent art actors is scarce.

### Rationale

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) considers Art and Culture as an important component and tool of Good Governance. Moreover, for SDC supporting cultural activities is an integral and indispensable part of development, as is reflected in the SDC Culture and Development Policy:

- Culture as a resource and right
- Cultural diversity as a part of the heritage of humanity
- Intercultural dialogue and exchange as a foundation for peace
- Artistic expression as a driver of change

SDC has successfully supported cultural projects in Central Asia since 1998; the Regional Art and Culture Programme was launched in 2007, building on the vision of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue. It has been recognized as an innovative, effective and context-adapted vehicle to promote universal values such as democratic principles, openness, and diversity as well as for strengthening social and cultural dynamics and social cohesion in communities.

### Country:

Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and  
Kyrgyzstan

### Duration:

2020-2023

### Total Budget:

CHF 1,925 Mio.

### Partners:

Art and culture entities,  
associations, theatres,  
conservatories, galleries,  
NGOs, art and culture  
specialists

### Executing Agency:

Self-implemented

## **Objectives and activities**

The overall goal of the Programme is to support and enlarge safe spaces where artists, as «actors of change», address societal issues through free expression and diverse creations. It contributes to the development of a public debate and exposes people to a diversity of views and opinions.

The CAACP supports culture institutions such as theatres, museums, musical groups and art schools – in both urban and rural areas. Various events, such as concerts, performances, exhibitions, art mediation activities, master-classes are funded at national and regional levels.

## **Outcomes and envisaged results**

Outcome 1: Culture institutions provide artists with open spaces to foster artistic creativity, diversity of expression and regional interaction. This implies an increased ability of key partner organizations to provide opportunities for art and culture actors to create freely, and to present and discuss their work with the public in a creative manner. The empowerment of key organizations will allow them to maintain open and safe spaces to present relevant artwork.

Outcome 2: The general public accesses an artistic production that reflects socio-economic realities in Central Asia. Attention will be given to improve people's access to art and culture and to produce arts that is more representative of the diverse segments of society.

## **Target groups**

Arts and culture institutions, individual artists and their audience in urban and rural areas.

## **Key results achieved**

Nine partner organizations in the cultural sphere were supported, raising the quality and diversity of their productions while expanding their activities geographically. 31 open spaces and platforms were made available for diverse, alternative, and innovative artistic expressions in Uzbekistan. In total, around 4'000 artists benefited from the programme support in country. The general coverage of the public within the country (online and offline) is 15'000 people. Most of the projects supported have a regional component providing collaboration and networking. Organized activities covered diverse social subjects such as Identity and history, gender equality, environment and climate change issues, migration, inclusivity and equal opportunity for all.

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