



Annual plan 2026

Central Asia Solidarity Groups is a politically and religiously independent non-profit organization based in Malmö, Sweden. Active since 2009 and officially registered in 2012, the organization works for a democratic Central Asia characterized by a strong, active, and inclusive civil society in which human rights are protected, social justice is achieved, and the environment is protected and preserved. CAG's work is grounded in long-term, grassroots-centered solidarity and in a rights-based approach that combines mutual learning, capacity exchange, and long-term partnership building. Its work is organized across four interconnected thematic program areas: gender equality and women's rights, climate and environment, security and resilience, and democratic youth organizing.

The annual plan for 2026 marks an important step in CAG's development. During the year, the organization is implementing the first year of its three-year partnership within the Sida-supported regional programme for 2026–2028, developed jointly with partners in Central Asia. At the same time, CAG continues to engage in broader organizational, communicative, and fundraising efforts in Sweden and internationally, as well as pursue additional collaborations and project opportunities that strengthen the organization's long-term sustainability and thematic work.

The Sida-supported programme provides an important framework for CAG's work in 2026 and includes cooperation with four main interventions in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Through these partnerships, CAG supports locally anchored initiatives related to climate resilience, environmental sustainability, women's rights, and community-based organizing, while also strengthening civil society actors through long-term cooperation, mutual learning, and institutional support.

Projects

1. El-Too: Promoting environmental sustainability, gender equality, and land rights through permaculture and sustainable tourism in Kyrgyzstan

Our cooperation with El-Too focuses on environmental sustainability, land and property rights, and sustainable tourism. The intervention builds on previous work in permaculture and climate adaptation, while expanding into new areas such as seed selection, ecotourism, urban permaculture, and broader public engagement around the protection of vulnerable ecosystems in the Issyk-Kul region.

During the year, we work together to strengthen El-Too's institutional capacity through updated internal policies, staff training, strategic planning, and improved communication tools. At the same time, we support work with local



communities, women-led guesthouses, students, tourism actors, and local authorities to promote more sustainable land use and environmentally responsible tourism practices. Planned activities include informational support on seed selection, training and exchange visits linked to permaculture and ecotourism, development of urban permaculture experiments and awareness-raising efforts focused on the protection of semi-desert and lake ecosystems.

A central part of this intervention is to connect ecology with livelihoods and local participation. Through practical training, public communication, and cooperation with community members and sectoral actors, we aim to support more resilient local practices while also contributing to broader dialogue on environmental justice, tourism-related land use, and the long-term protection of Issyk-Kul and surrounding areas.

2. ISDS: Sustainable management and conservation of wetlands and grasslands in the Son Kul Lake

In 2026, we continue our cooperation with. The intervention focuses on strengthening community-based governance and long-term conservation of the wetland and grassland ecosystems in the Son Kul pilot area, while also supporting more sustainable and resilient livelihoods for local communities.

During the year, we work together with local communities, schools, local authorities, the Karatal-Zhapyryk State Reserve, and other relevant actors to increase awareness of biodiversity, wetlands, and sustainable resource management. Planned activities include educational work in schools, community-based awareness raising, participatory biodiversity monitoring, and the development of alternative livelihood initiatives with a particular focus on women and youth. The intervention also supports stronger dialogue and cooperation between rights-holders and duty-bearers in relation to environmental governance and the management of natural resources.

A central part of this intervention is to connect environmental protection with local participation and resilience. Through community engagement, practical training, and cooperation with local and national stakeholders, we aim to contribute to more inclusive and sustainable wetland and grassland management in the Son Kul area, while also strengthening civil society engagement and local ownership over conservation efforts.

3. Little Earth: Community-based climate resilience and women's participation in the Yaghnob Valley, Tajikistan

In Tajikistan, our 2026 work with Little Earth focuses on sustainable natural resource management, clean energy solutions, and women's participation in remote mountain communities of the Yaghnob Valley. The intervention builds on previous work in the area and expands activities to new villages, with the aim of strengthening household resilience, reducing pressure on fragile ecosystems, and supporting more inclusive local engagement around environmental issues.

During the year, we work together to improve access to sustainable energy solutions and strengthen local knowledge related to environmental protection, gender equality, and the management of natural resources in protected areas.

Planned activities include community-based trainings for women, demonstration and distribution of clean energy technologies, a study tour for active participants, and follow-up work with households in the target villages. The intervention also seeks to strengthen cooperation with the Yaghnob National Nature-Ethnographic Park and support more structured dialogue between communities and relevant institutions.



A central part of this intervention is to connect environmental sustainability with everyday living conditions and women's agency. Through practical support, training, and local participation, we aim to contribute to more sustainable household practices, improved resilience in remote communities, and stronger participation of women in community and environmental decision-making in the Yaghnob Valley.

4. Support to activists in Uzbekistan

In Uzbekistan, our 2026 work focuses on support to activists and community-based efforts working with gender equality, public awareness and civic engagement. The intervention combines capacity strengthening, knowledge-based work and community support, with the aim of contributing to longer-term shifts in how gender-related issues are discussed and understood in society.

During the year, we provide resources for capacity building, content development, and spaces for learning and exchange. This includes support for the production and dissemination of educational materials, facilitation of discussions and learning formats, and mentorship and coordination that strengthen the ability of activists and engaged community members to communicate more effectively and work in a more structured and sustainable way. The intervention also supports broader outreach so that important social issues can be discussed in ways that are accessible to wider audiences.

A central part of this work is to strengthen local capacity and resilience. Through support to community-based knowledge processes, network-building and organizational development, we aim to contribute to a stronger foundation for continued activism and civil society engagement in Uzbekistan.

5. Support to activists in the wider Eurasian region

In 2026, we are implementing a project that supports activists in the wider Eurasian region working with human rights, anti-discrimination, and civic engagement. The project focuses on strengthening the capacity, sustainability, and resilience of activists and community-based actors.

During the year, we provide resources for organizational support, professional development, and safer forms of coordination and communication. The project includes capacity-building activities, peer exchange, mentoring, and support for activist-led initiatives, as well as measures that help strengthen well-being and long-term engagement. It also creates opportunities for learning, reflection, and network-building that can support activists in continuing their work over time.

A central part of this project is to strengthen the people and structures that make continued civic engagement possible. Through support to skills development, activist networks, and practical initiatives, we aim to contribute to a stronger foundation for solidarity, sustainability, and future democratic engagement across the region.



FUNDRAISING:

In 2026, CAG continues to strengthen and diversify its fundraising work in order to sustain ongoing projects and create space for future initiatives. Fundraising efforts focus on both established and emerging donor opportunities that align with the organization's thematic areas. Building on the start of the new programme, CAG also continues to explore complementary funding that can strengthen organizational sustainability and support broader collaboration. This includes dialogue with potential partners, development of new project ideas, and continued attention to opportunities for cooperation with networks, foundations, and other relevant actors.

BOARD AND OFFICE WORK:

In 2026, CAG's board and office continue to strengthen the organization's internal structure and support the implementation of ongoing projects through improved systems, coordination, and communication. This includes further operationalization of the organization's theory of change, continued development of internal workflows, and support to project implementation, reporting, fundraising, and external communication. Enhanced communication will also focus on increasing online visibility and presenting the work of partners and wider initiatives in a clearer and more consistent way.

Following the external audit conducted in 2025, an important priority during 2026 is the continued institutionalization of new routines, policies, and internal control measures. This includes integrating updated governance and administrative practices into the regular work of the organization and strengthening routines related to documentation, partner processes, and internal coordination. In parallel, the board and office continue to strengthen volunteer engagement and collaboration with partners, networks, and other stakeholders. Together, these efforts support both the practical delivery of current work and the long-term development of CAG as a more resilient, structured, and sustainable organization.