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TAJIKISTAN

SUCCESS STORY

A Teacher's Journey from Indifference to Impact

USAID's Youth Theater for Peace program inspires a teacher to take action in her community



Photo Credit: Mikhail Romanyuk

Above, Dilafruz Sattorova facilitates a drama for conflict transformation activity with her youth group.

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-Dilafruz Sattorova, Educator

Before she became involved in the Youth Theater for Peace program, Dilafruz Sattorova was largely indifferent to many of the problems around her. From a rural, remote part of Tajikistan, she lacked confidence and did not feel engaged in her community. Today, she has been promoted to deputy director of her school and mentors youth in conflict prevention skills through two local youth drama clubs established with USAID support.

“Youth Theater for Peace made me confident,” Ms. Sattorova reflected. “I realized I can work with people of different nationalities and undertake more responsibility. I can work with a large audience and I have improved my communication skills.” Through several workshops under the Youth Theater for Peace program, she was trained to facilitate arts-based conflict transformation activities for young people. Coordinating with community leaders and local authorities, Ms. Sattorova organized a series of interactive Forum Theater performances by her Drama Club, *Dusti*, which means “friendship”. The performances have raised awareness of community issues and created a space for dialogue around conflict in a multi-ethnic setting.

Ms. Sattorova is confident that USAID's investments will have a lasting impact. “Our school will serve as a base to retain the methodology of Forum Theater,” she explained. “We have established two drama clubs in our school, one of which works with communities where there are ethnic tensions between Uzbeks and Tajiks. We try to address these issues through our performances. I believe that the youth involved in the Youth Theater for Peace program will transfer their knowledge each year to one another and teachers will use the methodology.”

Ms. Sattorova is proud to have the chance to impact a wider group of youth in her community. “Now I have a different attitude towards my job,” she said. “I know that students need me and I can deliver my knowledge and help youth navigate to follow the right track.”