

# Mongolia



Being one of the first western non-governmental organizations to work in Mongolia, The Asia Foundation has taken a long-term and comprehensive approach to advancing Mongolia's democratic and market-oriented reforms. Over the past decade and a half, The Asia Foundation in Mongolia has worked to promote justice, accountability, and prosperity, through research, grants to local NGOs, and partnerships with the private and public sectors.



The Asia Foundation, in partnership with the national and local governments, the private sector, communities, and non-government organizations, works toward achieving broad-based prosperity in Mongolia.

The Asia Foundation's programs in Mongolia focus on strengthening governance and establishing a foundation for long-term economic prosperity. Working at the forefront of Mongolia's most critical challenges, the Foundation mobilizes public and private institutions to work together in achieving lasting reform. Key program areas include: advancing anti-corruption and legal reform; combating human trafficking; spearheading environmentally sustainable economic development; community-oriented policing; and providing access to educational resources through the Books for Asia program.

## ADVANCING ANTI-CORRUPTION AND LEGAL REFORM

Corruption is pervasive in Mongolia and poses a major threat to economic development and democratic governance. To address this challenge, The Asia Foundation strengthens governmental and non-governmental organizations' ability to fight corruption and engages citizens in combating corruption. In 2007, the Foundation advised on and advocated for passage of the Anti-Corruption Law which brought into establishment the Independent Authority Against Corruption (IAAC), the lead agency for fighting

corruption in Mongolia. Since the IAAC's establishment, the Foundation has strengthened the IAAC's capacity to identify and prevent corruption and worked with stakeholders to strengthen the adjudication of corruption cases. As a result, the IAAC has investigated 346 cases and referred 104 cases for prosecution, resulting in 37 convictions to date. In addition, the IAAC has recovered \$3.6 million in cash and froze \$5.48 million in assets.

The Foundation has also developed an innovative corruption benchmarking tool that assesses the scope, incidence, and impact of corruption on the household level over time. Since 2006, the Foundation has conducted eight national surveys. The Foundation has raised public awareness on corruption leading to a growing level of public intolerance, resulting in 460 corruption reports being registered through the hotline of the IAAC.

As mining wealth accrues in Mongolia, the potential for corruption grows. In preparation for the increase in mining-related commercial activity, the Foundation has launched an initiative aimed at strengthening the adjudication of commercial law cases.



## MONGOLIA

The Asia Foundation has been working Mongolia since 1993.

Since 2006, the Foundation has been instrumental in developing Mongolia's Independent Authority Against Corruption which has identified corruption cases leading to 37 convictions.

To establish a baseline for responsible resource use, the Foundation conducted water quality monitoring of 124 rivers across the country over three years.

## COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is a prevalent problem in Mongolia. While incidence is difficult to quantify, an average of about 70-100 victims a year have been assisted by local organizations since 2007. However, the numbers of victims of trafficking are suspected to be on the rise. Since 2002, The Asia Foundation has been at the forefront of addressing human trafficking issues in Mongolia. Through programs implemented to date, the Foundation has conducted key assessments that determined the extent and incidence of trafficking, built the capacity of prosecutors, judges, and law enforcement resulting in increased convictions of trafficking cases, established a highly successful hotline in partnership with the Mongolia Gender Equality Center, and reached an estimated 100,000 youth through multi-media and awareness campaigns to prevent trafficking across the country. Working through local partners, the Foundation's current initiative is strengthening the prosecution of perpetrators of human trafficking while supporting complementary prevention activities.

## SPEARHEADING ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Since 2006, The Asia Foundation has been at the forefront of addressing Mongolia's challenges associated with the development and management of its mineral rich economy. Through a multi-faceted program, the Foundation is comprehensively promoting responsible mining and strengthening stewardship of Mongolia's natural resources. Working with non-governmental partners and public and private sector counterparts, the timely Securing Our Future program has filled a critical gap in addressing Mongolia's environment issues and laid a foundation for advancing and sustaining responsible resource use.

The Foundation facilitates constructive public, private, and civil society sector dialogue on environmental governance. The Foundation works with partners to enforce laws and regulations that protect natural resources and increase citizen engagement and transparency in the mine licensing process. To provide empiric evidence and empower decisionmakers, the Foundation has introduced sustainable and reliable methods of monitoring river water resources. The Foundation has significantly increased the knowledge base for

informed decisionmaking through the production and dissemination of a wide variety of information on responsible resource use.

## COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING

In response to the growing incidence of crime in Ulaanbaatar's ger districts, The Asia Foundation launched an initiative in 2008 aimed at strengthening police and community relations in four target areas. Over the past year, community councils have been established that worked in partnership with police to improve security in their local area. As a result, in one of the target areas, police reported that the incidence of crime has dropped by 35 percent.

## BOOKS FOR ASIA

The Asia Foundation operates a robust book donation program in Mongolia, which has distributed more than 100,000 English-language resources across the country in partnership with private sector partners.

In Mongolia, The Asia Foundation programs are also funded by the United States Agency for International Development, United States Department of State, Royal Netherlands Embassy, British Embassy, Canada Fund and private sector partners.

*The Asia Foundation is a private, non-profit, non-governmental organization. Through its programs, the Foundation builds leadership, improves policies, and strengthens institutions to foster greater openness and shared prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. It is funded by contributions from corporations, foundations, individuals, and governmental organizations in the U.S., Europe, Canada, Australia, and Asia, and an annual appropriation from the U.S. Congress.*



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