

# Indonesia

Indonesia plays a growing leadership role as a key economy and holder of major environmental assets. The Asia Foundation creates effective partnerships with innovative local government, civil society, and private sector leaders in Indonesia. Our efforts advance reforms that improve environmental governance, increase social inclusion, strengthen justice systems, protect human rights, and promote tolerance and equitable economic growth.



## ENVIRONMENT

Indonesia is home to tropical forests critical to achieving the world's climate change agenda. Indonesia's tragic peatland and forest fires accelerated greenhouse gas emissions, and the country can only meet its international commitments through improved forest governance. The Asia Foundation works with partners in 11 provinces, offering innovative mechanisms that have already protected more than 4.4 million hectares of forest. Partners use Freedom of Information legislation to obtain maps of mining and forestry permits, and file concession grievances to protect forest cover. Partners also report corruption-related violations of land use laws to authorities, resulting in over 1,000 forest conversion permits being revoked.

Our partners support the government's ambitious social forestry programs, and the Foundation develops and advocates for provincial and district-level ecological fiscal transfers to incentivize environmental protections. Papua and West Papua provinces account for 36 percent of Indonesia's forest cover. With support from the Packard Foundation our Agriculture, Livelihoods and Conservation Initiative is piloting sustainable agriculture, reintroducing locally suited and profitable crops like cocoa and vanilla, and

boosting yields of staples and profits for farmers. We are also assessing impacts of rapid development of road networks, and support reviews of spatial and medium-term development plans to ensure development is done sustainably.

## SOCIAL INCLUSION

Building on the government's commitment to improve public accountability and performance through inclusive development the *Peduli Program* has been helping to improve services, social acceptable, and policies for Indonesia's most marginalized groups, including religious minorities, victims of human rights abuses, transgender individuals, indigenous communities, disabled persons, and vulnerable children. Partners work with more than 60,000 direct beneficiaries to access services such as health cards, legal identity, education, and social safety nets.

## JUSTICE SECTOR REFORM

In the early days of reform, Asia Foundation support was instrumental to the development of blueprints for reform of the judiciary, police and corrections services, as well as the establishment of the Corruption Eradication, Judicial, and Freedom of Information Commissions. We



## INDONESIA

Grounded in a 60-year presence, today The Asia Foundation works with more than 265 civil society partners across a range of sectors using knowledge, innovation and technology, and a nuanced understanding of political economy

The Asia Foundation's Books for Asia program annually supplies 45,000 English-language books to 465 partner institutions.

continue to support civil society oversight of the selection of judicial commissioners, and engagement in the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan.

For the past decade, the Foundation has supported the Department of Corrections to develop a national database of prison inmates, which has drastically reduced prison overcrowding by making parole more transparent and accessible. The database has also increased security by consolidating information about detainees convicted for terrorism, and increasing oversight of visitors. The Foundation is also helping to scale up legal aid, improving electronic case management systems and expanding “street law” and paralegal services. Our focus on disability rights has seen the expansion of legal aid for people with disabilities, collaborative action on national disability legislation, and exposure of corruption in disability-related social protection allowances.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

The Asia Foundation is supporting Indonesia’s human rights defenders, including journalists and activists working on anti-corruption, women’s and minority rights, land rights, and conflict. We strengthened the National Commission on Human Rights’ database of violations against these defenders, and facilitated their personal security training. Protection of religious minorities from discrimination and violence is another key area, and covers dozens of community-based initiatives as well as national advocacy to safeguard pluralism. Our values education program works with public and Islamic schools to support learning processes that strengthen the foundation of diversity and tolerance in society. We also support the National Police Academy to train its cadets in human rights, gender and conflict management. Finally, we support a network of solidarity groups for victims of gross human rights violations to ensure they have equal access to state services such as health and social safety-net programs.

## DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE

The Asia Foundation continues to support Indonesia’s decentralization process. With 15 years of experience assisting hundreds of local

governments with planning and budgeting, partners are now working to ensure that the more than 60,000 village governments have the capacity, systems, and oversight to take on tremendous new responsibilities. We also remain a trusted source for gender budget analysis.

## ECONOMIC REFORM

Indonesia’s macroeconomic growth is slowing, highlighting the urgent need to tackle longstanding challenges such as corruption and infrastructure. The Asia Foundation supports civil society, academics, and think tanks to provide evidence and demand that policy makers innovate to keep economic growth on track.

## TECHNOLOGY

We have equipped environmental partners with drones to record video of remaining forest cover, or collect evidence of companies violating land-use permits. An online tool allowing citizens to report forest violations, developed with the Corruption Eradication Commission, led to the cancellation of 304 land-use permits in its first year.

## BOOKS FOR ASIA

The Indonesia office distributes tens of thousands of textbooks, children’s and young adult book annually to 80 recipient institutions. We partner with the Association of University Librarians to distribute 14,700 higher education textbooks to more than 100 universities in Jakarta, Banten, Lampung, East Java, and Central Java. Our new digital book platform, *Let’s Read*, has greatly expanded the number of books in Bahasa Indonesia and the Minang language. *Let’s Read* hosts book translation events where university students and translators adapt hundreds of books into local languages, led a public read-aloud campaign reaching 200,000 readers, and provides training to female authors and illustrators to create books in local languages that promote gender equity.

*The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Headquartered in San Francisco, The Asia Foundation works through a network of offices in 18 Asian countries and in Washington, DC. Working with public and private partners, the Foundation receives funding from a diverse group of bilateral and multilateral development agencies, foundations, corporations, and individuals.*



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