

India

The Asia Foundation opened a resident office in New Delhi in 2009, where it has focused on supporting India's engagement in regional and global affairs, improving urban governance, and promoting women's security. The India office serves as a focal point for the Foundation's regional programs in South Asia and fosters the participation of Indian experts and institutions in South Asian development.



INDIA AND THE REGION

As a rising regional and global power, India has a critical role to play in maintaining peace, stability, and economic growth in South Asia. Drawing on its expertise and network of field offices in the region, The Asia Foundation supports programs on transboundary water governance, intraregional trade, trafficking in persons, and international development cooperation in South Asia.

TRANSBOUNDARY WATER GOVERNANCE

Rising demand and increasing scarcity have brought water governance to the forefront of interstate relations in South Asia. Foundation initiatives support policy research and stakeholder engagement in transboundary water governance. In 2016, the Foundation launched the Civil Society Fund of the South Asia Water Governance Program and is working with over 40 CSOs across the region on issues related to the management of Himalayan rivers. In 2017, as a partner in Australia's Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio, the Foundation will support South Asian cooperation on food, energy, and water security by convening forums for national and regional dialogue.

INTRAREGIONAL TRADE

Intraregional trade is critical to South Asian development, but it has stagnated since the 1990s. In 2016, the Foundation and its partners implemented a project to reduce non-tariff barriers to food trade, worked with 375 stakeholders to improve trade in health services between India and Pakistan, and conducted four roundtable discussions supporting the Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and India (BBIN) subregional initiative, focusing on trade, transit, water, and energy.

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Trafficking in persons (TIP) continues to be a key concern for India and South Asia. Foundation programs support a more integrated South Asia, with stronger people-to-people connectivity and safe migration for workers across borders. In 2016, NGO partner Bachpan Bachao Andolan worked to publicize anti-TIP laws and build the capacity of legal aid services, child rights commissions, and civil society organizations, while partner Bharatiya Kisan Sangh Ranchi helped rescue and repatriate several child trafficking victims through its transit home in New Delhi.



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DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

India contributes more than US\$2.5 billion annually to nations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, but the workings of India's aid program have remained unclear to the larger development community. The Asia Foundation is working to bridge this divide through research, capacity building, and international dialogue on aid effectiveness and South-South cooperation. In 2016, the Foundation hosted the 15th meeting of the Asian Approaches to Development Cooperation dialogue in New Delhi, with participants from 10 countries. Since 2007, the Foundation has invited 27 young diplomats from India's Ministry of External Affairs to attend a two-week seminar on U.S. foreign policy at George Washington University, followed by two weeks of site visits in various parts of the country, to foster a better understanding of U.S. policymaking within India's Foreign Service.

URBAN GOVERNANCE

India's urban population will nearly double by 2050. The Asia Foundation's urban governance programs work to strengthen citizen-government relations, improve urban services, and build the capacity of elected urban leaders, especially women. Foundation partner CUTS International is developing a City Mayors' Learning Platform to provide mayors and deputy mayors in Rajasthan with a forum for sharing best practices. NGO partner Janaagraha, in the city of Bengaluru, is developing a project called "My City, My Budget" to provide structured, neighborhood-level platforms for civic participation in municipal budgeting.

WOMEN'S SECURITY

Despite constitutional and legal protections, women in India experience violence in public and private spaces. The Asia Foundation provides grants to local partners to raise awareness and counter violence against women. NGO Shakti Shalini runs a Delhi-based shelter for survivors of domestic violence and has worked with local police on 105 cases of sexual assault and molestation. A report by the Human Development Society on vulnerable women living alone helped local governments develop new policies on violence and harassment. Other partners are training frontline service providers, using creative communication tools to socialize young men against street harass-

ment and child marriage, and offering professional workshops on nonstigmatizing approaches to victims of sexual violence who seek medical or legal help.

India's 2013 law against workplace sexual harassment has suffered from weak implementation. The Multiple Action Research Group assessed the law's effectiveness in five cities, and finding that the majority of women were unaware of it, designed and distributed over 500 information pamphlets and posters in multiple local languages. In Uttar Pradesh, the YP Foundation launched a program for men and boys to curb violence against women, and in New Delhi, the Centre for Social Research and The Asia Foundation drew over 300 participants to a two-day conference on men's role in reducing violence against women, the culmination of a two-year partnership.

BOOKS FOR ASIA

Since 2007, The Asia Foundation's Books for Asia program and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have distributed textbooks and children's books to schools, libraries, and universities across India. In 2016, CII distributed 27,245 books in the southern states of India. In 2017, for the first time, 6,420 local-language children's books in Tamil, Telegu, and Kannada were distributed. To date, Books for Asia and CII have distributed 351,967 books.

LUCE SCHOLARS

For over four decades, The Asia Foundation has administered the Luce Scholars program, providing fellowships in Asia for promising young Americans. Since the program expanded to South Asia in 2011, the Foundation has placed seven Luce Scholars in India, in fields ranging from public policy and social entrepreneurship to filmmaking and creative writing.

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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