Indonesia

The Asia Foundation established an office in Indonesia in 1955 and has since fostered strong connections with a wide range of Indonesian institutions. This includes numerous civil society organizations, close collaboration with the Indonesian government and partners to improve public service delivery, advance justice sector reform, support environmental sustainability, strengthen democratic resilience and social equality, and foster economic growth and opportunity.

Highlights

Equitable, accessible, and more just legal systems, services, and decision-making
Advancing justice system mechanisms that focus on protecting the rights of marginalized communities, including promoting the restorative justice approach, incorporating disabilities into correctional facilities, using technology in criminal justice, promoting non-custodial alternatives to alleviate prison overcrowding, and drug policy reform.

Improving strategies, approaches, and mechanisms to mitigate conflict and misinformation
Provide training on mis- and disinformation issues in four provinces.

Enables women and youth to play more significant role in forest and land-use decision-making
Provide training programs for women, youth, and the local community on forest management and economic development in 14 provinces.

Improving forest and land governance to protect forests and communities in Indonesia
Empower local communities and vulnerable groups to address the challenges of strengthening sustainable forest management, promoting equality, and supporting economic growth.

Reduce gender-based violence and safeguard freedom of expression
Amplify the voices of women leaders and activists across the program countries to reduce gender-based violence and safeguard freedom of expression.

Strong and Inclusive Democratic Society
Engage young people and marginalized communities in democratic discussions and inclusive governance by organizing training workshops for community leaders.

2024 Snapshot

- 500+ women received training on social forestry and how to benefit from non-timber forest products
- 718+ case assistance services were provided to individuals who have experienced violence
- 859+ state civil servants participated in training programs focused on gender equality and social inclusion.
- 1,500+ micro business owners received digital training skills to grow small businesses
- 2,150+ state civil servants joined capacity building programs in good governance
- 8,092+ youth and marginalized communities received trainings on democratic resilience and inclusive governance
- 10,500+ Let’s Read books available in 60 languages, including Bahasa Indonesia and 5 local languages: Java, Sunda, Batak Toba, Minang, and Bali
Flagship Initiatives

Improving Public Service Delivery
The Asia Foundation implements USAID ERAT (Effective, Efficient, and Strong Governance) to collaborate with central and subnational governments to enhance policy implementation and service provision at the local level. This initiative aims to harmonize national and subnational policies, improve access to public service, and strengthen budget management and implementation standards. USAID ERAT advocates for gender equality, social inclusion, and youth participation, as well as private-sector involvement in local governance and service delivery.

Strengthening Environmental Governance
The Foundation supports the government in enhancing transparency and accountability in the land use and forestry sector to address deforestation and land degradation, which is crucial for Indonesia to honor its climate pledges. We involve civil society and local communities in making decisions about forests and land use and we advocate for policies that protect forests, and our partners support the government in implementing the social forestry program.

Supporting Survivors of Gender-based Violence
The Foundation has collaborated with the Directorate General of Corrections for more than ten years to modernize prison systems and simplify the parole processes. The database has improved monitoring and protocols for handling prisoners with disabilities, minors, women, and high-risk inmates, such as those found guilty of terrorism. The Foundation has also assisted the government in reinforcing the integrated criminal justice system and advocating for alternative sentencing options to imprisonment.

Advancing Prison Reform
The Foundation has collaborated with the Directorate General of Corrections for more than ten years to modernize prison systems and simplify the parole processes. The database has improved monitoring and protocols for handling prisoners with disabilities, minors, women, and high-risk inmates, such as those found guilty of terrorism. The Foundation has also assisted the government in reinforcing the integrated criminal justice system and advocating for alternative sentencing options to imprisonment.

Promoting Democratic Resilience
Indonesia’s democracy stands firm at a time when democracy is declining worldwide. However, it faces a deepening polarization that puts it at risk. The Foundation collaborates with civil society partners, journalists, and local communities to foster unity and strengthen the community against divisive narratives.

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives and expanding opportunities across Asia and the Pacific. Informed by 70 years of experience and deep local knowledge, our work is focused on governance, climate action, gender equality, education and leadership, inclusive growth, and international cooperation. We work in more than 20 countries through our 17 permanent country offices and programs across Asia and the Pacific, supported by a headquarters in San Francisco and an office in Washington, DC. Our funding comes from a diverse array of bilateral and multilateral development agencies, foundations, corporations, and individuals.