

Pakistan



In Pakistan, The Asia Foundation strengthens government and non-government institutions, promotes women's empowerment, and improves citizen-state relations, access to justice, and human rights. We strengthen Pakistan's civil society organizations and are a key partner in promoting the rule of law, sustainable development, and STEM sectors via programs that enhance access to technology, future skills, and finance.

Project Highlights

Collaborating with universities to develop eco-friendly startups

We partnered with the leading science and technology universities in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province to identify climate impacts and develop sustainable solutions. The Conflict Resolution TechCamp engaged more than 5,000 students and trained 44 students to work on eight advocacy projects.

Fostering sustainable innovation

To support the development of innovative, tech-driven solutions for a sustainable future, we launched the Impact Collective 2022, a consortium of more than 30 organizations, including academia, think tanks, entrepreneurs, and civil society groups. Its primary goal is to collaborate on environmental matters, while also promoting research and ecopreneurship.

Promoting peace with Pakistan's youth

Establishing Youth Peace Incubation Centers at 10 universities engaged 8,000 students, and has resulted in 40 social action projects, 40 events aimed at preventing and countering violent extremism, and 60 community events.

2023 Snapshot



Established digital libraries in 20 public schools



2,000 youth participated in the Built by Her hackathon



Feasibility study supported the establishment of cost-effective women's protection centers across 32 districts in Punjab province



Flagship Initiatives



Reducing gender-based violence with Pakistan's justice system

Gender-based violence is a pressing concern in Pakistan. Reducing it requires improving the country's justice system. TAF is collaborating with the Islamic Research Institute at the International Islamic University Islamabad to train 2500 justice system stakeholders in Punjab, including prosecutors, police officials, lawyers, and local government representatives.

Empowering young women to build long-lasting solutions

TAF organized four virtual hackathons to realize the potential of young women and develop innovative solutions. The competition is open to female programmers, entrepreneurs, science students, social development enthusiasts, environmentalists, and artists, providing them with a platform to showcase their skills and creativity while addressing important social issues. The hackathons have received significant participation, with nearly 2,000 youths from across Pakistan taking part.

Increasing access to digital libraries

Since 1954, Books for Asia has donated more than 3 million books to improve literacy and reading skills among children in Pakistan. After the Covid-19 pandemic, the program transitioned to digital outreach and established digital libraries in 20 public schools, providing access to more than 3,000 storybooks. Additionally, we piloted a teacher training program with an innovative approach to integrating themes and delivering activity-based learning.

Promoting social cohesion in Punjab

The Asia Foundation is strengthening the existing preventing and countering violent extremism structures in South Punjab by training 1,000 youth and 15 community groups, specifically women. TAF focused on enhancing local community members' ability to implement community-led actions against violence, reinforcing policy reform and dialogue, and enhancing strategic coordination among government and civil society organizations to produce counter-narratives with educational institutions that engaged thousands of students. The project will also launch community-driven advocacy campaigns in target areas.

Roundtables for foreign direct investment

To enhance international cooperation and increase foreign direct investment in Pakistan, TAF facilitated a platform to identify barriers to foreign direct investment and to provide private sector-led policy recommendations. A series of roundtables has been held to bring together stakeholders, including private sector leaders, policymakers, board of investment and other pertinent ministries and departments.

The Asia Foundation is an international nonprofit organization working to solve the toughest social and economic challenges in Asia and the Pacific. Informed by more than 70 years of experience and deep local knowledge, we work with partners across more than 20 countries through 17 offices to improve lives and expand opportunities.