

# Pakistan



In Pakistan, The Asia Foundation strengthens government and non-government institutions, promotes gender-inclusive programming, 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 local challenges caused by climate-related issues and develop eco-friendly solutions. The Climate Change and Conflict Resolution TechCamp engaged over 5,000 students and trained 44 students to work on 8 advocacy projects.

### Fostering sustainable innovation

In order to support the development of innovative tech-driven solutions for a sustainable future, we launched the Impact Collective 2022, a consortium of over 30 organizations, including academia, think tanks, entrepreneurs, and civil society groups. Its primary goal is to collaborate on climate change-related issues, while also promoting climate-related 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. To effectively address this issue, the country's justice system must be improved. The Foundation 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

The Foundation organized four virtual hackathons with the aim of engaging young women to harness their potential 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 in these events.

### Increasing access to digital libraries

Since 1954, Books for Asia has donated over 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 over 3,000 storybooks. Additionally, a teacher training program was piloted with an innovative approach to integrating themes and delivering activity-based learning.

### Promoting social cohesion in Punjab

The 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. We focused on enhancing local community members' ability to effectively 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 to address key challenges to foreign direct investment in Pakistan, the Foundation 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 a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives and expanding opportunities across Asia and the Pacific. Informed by decades of experience and deep local expertise, our work across the region is focused on good governance, women's empowerment and gender equality, inclusive economic growth, environment and climate action, and regional and international relations.