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Recent Events

November 14 – The Foundation released the [2017 Survey of the Afghan People](#), the 13th annual survey based on face-to-face interviews with a nationally representative sample of more than 10,000 Afghan citizens. The event, co-hosted with USIP, included a presentation of the survey's findings and a discussion of the trends in citizens' views on issues including security, the economy, essential services, corruption, justice, youth issues, reconciliation with the Taliban, access to media, gender equality and governance and political participation. Watch the event [here](#) and learn more about our programs in [Afghanistan](#).

November 15 – Hosted by the Foundation's [Women's Empowerment Program](#), this event on "[Women in Afghan Society: Key Findings from A Survey of the Afghan People 2017](#)" shared the findings of the [2017 Survey of the Afghan People](#) that sheds new light on the crucial roles women play in Afghan society and provided comparative data on women's and men's attitudes towards women's rights, gender equality, the economy, the national mood, and security issues in Afghanistan.

Technology

[New Police Database Documents Violence Against Women and Children in Sri Lanka](#)



The police are most often the first point of contact in Sri Lanka for women seeking redress from acts of violence.

Violence against women continues to be the most widespread human rights violation in the world and in places like Sri Lanka, which is [emerging from decades of civil conflict](#), a lack of systematic reporting on the issue has made it extremely difficult to determine the magnitude of the problem. According to police statistics, over 33,000 cases of violence against women and children were recorded between 2005 and 2016 but the actual number of incidents are expected to be higher than the number of reported incidents. The UNFPA estimates that one in every four women in Sri Lanka has been sexually abused by the time she reaches 18. Over the past year, the Asia Foundation worked with the police and other related agencies to develop the very first [computerized database](#) for the Children and Women's Bureau (CWB) in Sri Lanka along with a user manual and training for relevant staff thus, equipping them better to

document, track, and address issues of violence against women and children. Learn more about our [Sri Lanka](#) and [technology and development](#) programs.

In the News

[Nepal Embarks on New Political Course](#)

Millions of Nepalis cast their votes in the two-phase [provincial and federal elections](#) that concluded on December 7. The overriding hope is that these elections, the first under the [new constitution](#), will move Nepal out of an elongated post-conflict transition into a period of stabilization. A closer look at the implementation of the 2015 constitution reveals the playing out of 2 possible scenarios— shared self-rule through federalism or a misinformed excursion by upstarts that needs to be curbed before the country falls apart. Despite functionalities of a previously centralized, unitary state fighting to preserve as much of the status quo as possible, constitutional provisions for local government provide reassurance that the power and resources needed to address local interests and needs are now within reach, if the opportunity is seized. Much remains to be done in the tortuous transition toward democratic consolidation in a federal structure and the building up of new institutions as Nepal embarks on a new political course. Read more from [George Varughese](#), Asia Foundation's country representative in [Nepal](#), [here](#).



A police personnel guards a polling station area in eastern Nepal some 600 km from Kathmandu during the first phase of parliamentary and provincial elections on Nov. 26. Photo/Mr. Skanda Gautam, The Himalayan Times

Notes from the Field

[From Paper to Platforms: Tax Collection in Myanmar](#)



Township staff use Myankhon. Before the app, property tax collection in Taunggyi took nearly six months to finish, not it takes two months with barely any paperwork.

With the support of the Asia Foundation, Myanmar's municipal staff in Taunggyi, the capital of Shan State, is [piloting a new mobile app called Myankhon](#) to strengthen public finance management. The app allows municipal staff to review and input tax data in real time, digitize tax records, and generate tax bills resulting in a more efficient and transparent revenue collection system. For example, property tax collection in Taunggyi now takes two months to finish as compared to nearly six months before the use of Myankhon. The app offers a promising solution toward addressing the challenges arising from the lack in revenues due to an outdated revenue management system and remedying low levels of citizen trust in their services. Read more about the Asia Foundation's initiatives on [strengthening governance](#) and our programs in [Myanmar](#).

Publications of Interest



"Asian Approaches to Development Cooperation: Focus on Women and Girls' Empowerment"

September 13-14, 2017

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

[Asian Approaches to Development Cooperation: Focus on Women and Girls' Empowerment](#)

Organized jointly by the Korea Development Institute (KDI) and The Asia Foundation, the [Asian Approaches to Development Cooperation \(AADC\) dialogue series](#) brings together development experts and government officials from the Asia region and beyond. In 2017, the AADC dialogues focus on how Asian countries are tackling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through their cooperation programs. The first conference in Manila explored planned urbanization and the New Urban Agenda (SDG 11) while the second meeting in Ulaanbaatar discussed women and girls' empowerment (SDG 5). This report covers the proceedings and outcomes of the Ulaanbaatar meeting, featuring presentations and discussions by development experts, innovators, activists and practitioners from governments, companies, academia, NGOs, and multilateral organizations across Asia.



[Impact of Domestic Violence on the Workplace in China](#)

In 2016, after 20 years of advocacy, China passed the Anti-Domestic Violence Law. Employers were identified as key stakeholders in addressing domestic violence (DV) in China's Anti-DV Law. However, there is limited data on how DV affects the workplace in China or how employers understand their responsibilities. To fill this gap, The Asia Foundation and SynTao initiated a one-year research project in 2016, which surveyed 706 employees and 93 employers and conducted in-depth, structured interviews with eight DV survivors and seven employers in diverse industries. This study is intended to fulfill two purposes: (1) To establish a baseline of knowledge on the understandings, experiences, and effects of DV in the workplace among employees and employers; and (2) To inform and improve employer responses to DV, as required by the DV Law. Read more on our work in [China](#).



The Asia Foundation improves lives, expands opportunities, and helps societies flourish across a dynamic and developing Asia. We work with innovative leaders and communities to build effective institutions and advance pathbreaking reforms. Together with our partners, we are committed to Asia's continued development as a peaceful, just, and thriving region of the world.