

Given the challenging security environment in Afghanistan, The Asia Foundation has put into place a plan that prioritizes the safety of our staff and their families. We are suspending activities at this time. With a deep and enduring commitment to Afghanistan's development, we will continue efforts to contribute to as a positive path forward for the people of Afghanistan as possible.

Donate now to the [Afghanistan Rapid Relief Fund](#).

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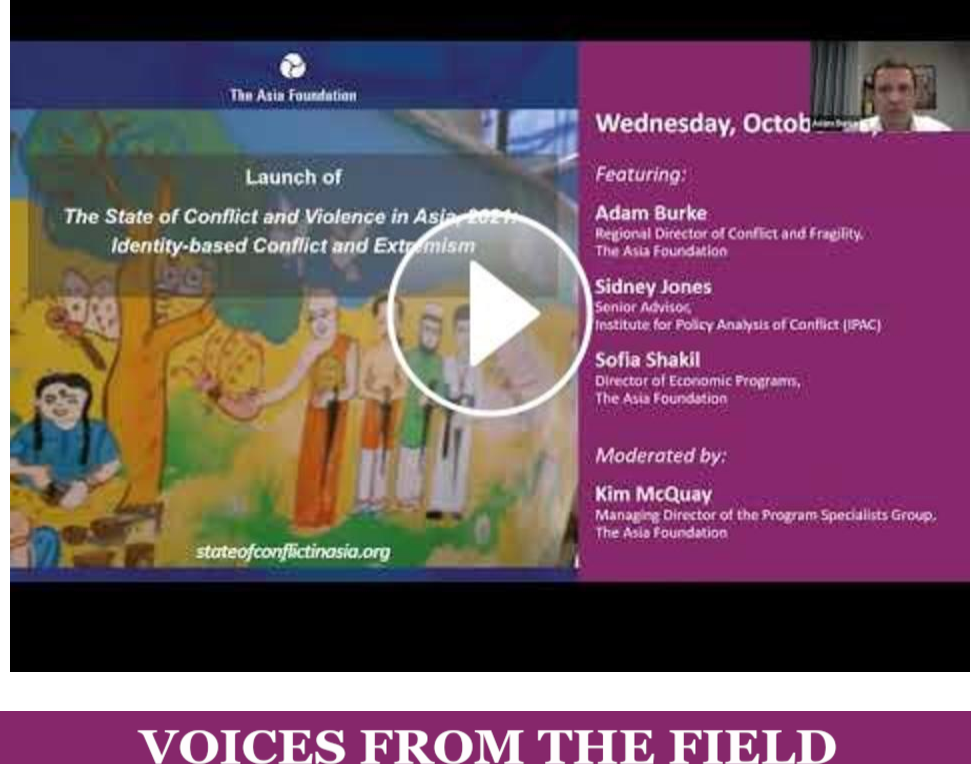
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EVENTS

Recent Virtual Event - [Launch of *The State of Conflict and Violence in Asia, 2021: Identity-based Conflict and Extremism*](#)

OCTOBER 20, 2021 –In Asia, political violence and organized conflicts continue to be fueled by the rising trend toward more authoritarian governance, the resurgence of identity-based politics, the contraction of democratic space, and violent extremism—often exacerbated by online disinformation. Long-term fragility has been accelerated and compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic. In this event, [Adam Burke](#), Regional Director of [Conflict and Fragility](#) at The Asia Foundation and lead author of the report, along with [Sidney Jones](#), Senior Advisor at the Jakarta-based [Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict \(IPAC\)](#) and guest contributor to the report, as well as [Sofia Shakil](#), Director of Economic Programs at The Asia Foundation, reflected on the second edition of *The Asia Foundation's State of Conflict and Violence in Asia* report which explores patterns of conflict and factors that contribute to violence. Watch the [event recording](#) and listen to the recent [InAsia podcast](#).



VOICES FROM THE FIELD

InAsiaPodcast: [Stories for Children of the Ocean](#)

The first-ever BookLab in the Pacific Island nation of Fiji recruited local artists to create ten new storybooks for children around the theme of Ocean and Inclusive Climate Action. On this episode of InAsia, author Susie Elliot describes that as a child, “I lived an experience of myself through adventures and stories that came from other countries, but I never saw myself in these stories...my world was never reflected back at me...It was like growing up blindfolded.”

The project aims for children to see their own lives, identities, and languages reflected in these books and to increase the cultural visibility of small island states. The podcast also features an excerpt from Susie's book, *Scaredy-Cat Molly*, which has a heartwarming surprise twist at the end. Learn more about The Foundation's work in the [Pacific Islands](#) and [Let's Read initiative](#).

[Mongolia: Five Lessons from Mongolia's Pandemic Hotline Project](#)

Existing hotlines proved insufficient amid the surge in cases of domestic violence during the pandemic in Mongolia. In response, the Foundation, its Lotus Circle supporters, and partner organizations expanded two free, 24/7 hotlines for those experiencing gender-based violence. Read about the five insights into trauma-informed counseling services gained through this initiative, including best practices and a clear code of ethics. Read more about our Mongolia country program [here](#).



Implementing partner Beautiful Hearts NGO introducing the available hotlines virtually

[Is Asia Ready for a Feminist Foreign Policy?](#)

While the empowerment of women and girls leads to better governance, economic growth, human development indicators, and overall stability, many governments are failing to center gender equality as they rethink power structure and build new alliances amid tectonic shifts in power dynamics and profound changes in global alliances and priorities. Authors call for countries in Asia to develop a feminist foreign policy, particularly in Covid-recovery to prioritize a rights-and-equity discourse in engagement with other nations. Learn more about our work to [empower women](#).

PUBLICATIONS

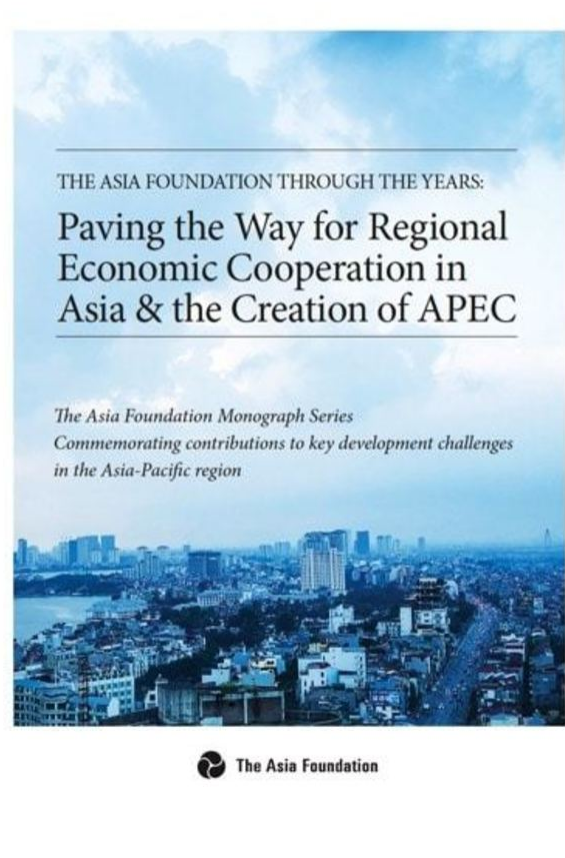
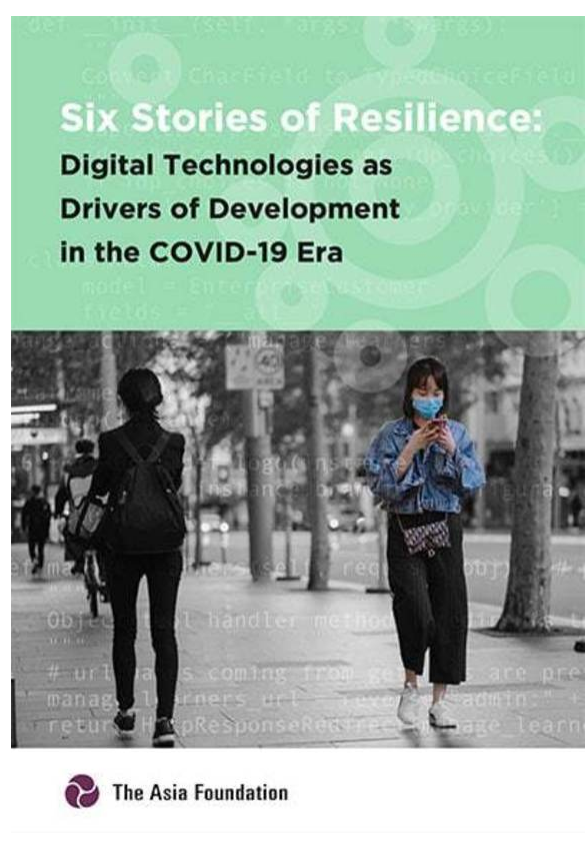
[Myanmar: Covid-19 and Complex Conflicts: The Pandemic in Myanmar's Unsettled Regions](#)

The Covid-19 crisis has had mixed impacts on Myanmar's disparate conflicts and the ongoing peace process. International support is critical for not only mitigating the potentially devastating long-term effects of the pandemic on nascent livelihoods and governance systems but also to ensure that vital resources are not diverted away from peacebuilding work. Meanwhile, agencies supporting the pandemic response should ensure that they adapt to account for conflict tensions and the hugely varied local conditions across Myanmar. Learn more about our work in [conflict and fragile conditions](#).

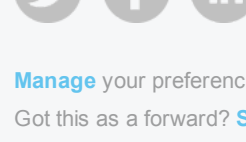
[Technology and Development: Six Stories of Resilience: Digital Technologies as Drivers of Development in the Covid-19 Era](#)

The Asia Pacific region is adapting to the many challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic in part by leveraging the power of digital technologies. This process of digitalization has accelerated and is transforming key sectors, such as micro, small and medium-sized businesses (MSMEs), education, healthcare, data collection and research, and the agri-food business. Hybrid solutions involving a mix of online and offline interactions may persist for some time going forward, given the potential to generate new value and leaps in productivity. Click here for more information on our [Technology and Development program](#).

Ambassador Haydn Williams, who served as president of The Asia Foundation from 1964-1989, commissioned the creation of a series of monographs to commemorate the Foundation's contributions to the Asia-Pacific. The first in the series focuses on regional economic cooperation and the Foundation's pivotal role in supporting multilateral discussion, negotiation, and engagement that led to the creation of significant regional institutions, most notably Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. Click here for more information on our [Regional and International Relations program](#).



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