



The Asia Foundation



UPDATE FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.

Welcome to The Asia Foundation's Washington, D.C. December newsletter. This final issue of the year features **70th anniversary impact highlights**, our recent event on **Strengthening Civic Spaces: Lessons from South Asia**, InAsia posts about **women's empowerment in Indonesia** and a **Let's Read workshop in Bangladesh**, a recent publication on the **intersection of climate change and care work**, as well as a **tribute to our long-time colleague David Steinberg**.

The Asia Foundation at 70



The Asia Foundation



Celebrating
Seventy
Years

Since 1954, The Asia Foundation (TAF) has addressed the most critical issues facing Asia and the Pacific with purpose, focus, and urgency and by drawing on our deep local knowledge and vital partnerships across government, civil society, business, and academia. Learn more about TAF's 70 years of enduring impact on individual lives, communities, and ecosystems in Asia and the Pacific through the [#TAF70 video series](#) below.



From Safety to Skills:
Preparing Bangladesh
Garment Workers for a Future
of Automation



From Camels to Clicks:
Expanding Access to
Knowledge



From Crisis to Opportunity:
Bridging ASEAN's Digital Skill
Gap

Recent Event

Strengthening Civic Spaces: Lessons from South Asia



December 5 – At this panel discussion, The Asia Foundation was joined by civil society leaders from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, who highlighted the contributions that the [South Asia Governance Fund program](#) has made to a more vibrant and connected civic society across the region. State Department Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for South Asia Elizabeth Horst provided opening remarks. Panelists shared stories of their work in strengthening governance, accountability, and transparency, and working across countries in regional coalitions.

Voices from the Field



[Empowering Women, Building Communities: The Merauke Women's School](#)

In South Papua, Indonesia, women facing violence often find that traditional practices perpetuate a cycle of abuse and injustice, leaving victims powerless and unheard. In response to this harsh reality, a coalition of local organizations, supported by TAF, established Sekolah Perempuan, the Women's School, to break the cycle of violence against women in Merauke and empower victims to reclaim their voices and

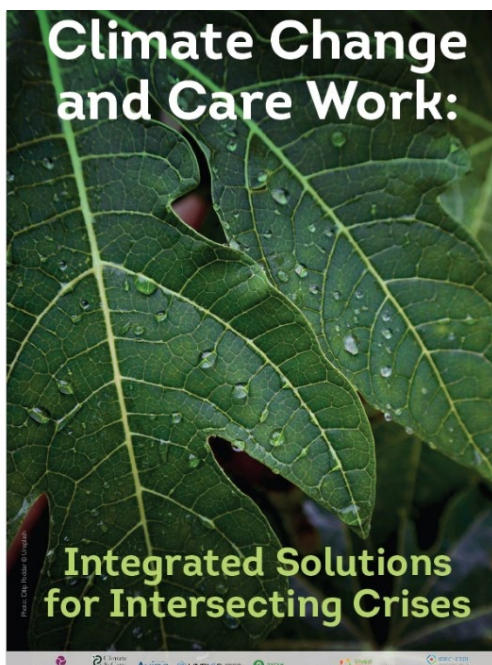
fight for justice. The program focuses on improving access to legal and social services for women in Papua, with particular attention to supporting victims of violence, through a combination of education and economic empowerment initiatives. Learn more about TAF's work in [Indonesia](#).



[Let's Read and BRAC University to Make Reading More Fun for Children](#)

This month, Let's Read Bangladesh and BRAC University hosted "Translating Stories for Young Minds," a workshop to inspire students to make reading more accessible for children. The event combined hands-on training, collaborative creativity, and a focus on cultural sensitivity to teach participants how to adapt children's stories for diverse audiences. From simplifying language for young readers to preserving cultural authenticity, participants worked in teams to create meaningful, engaging stories. The event was a testament to the power of teamwork, creativity, and the importance of making books relatable to children from all walks of life. Learn more about TAF's [Let's Read](#) program.

Recent Publication



[Climate Change and Care Work: Integrated Solutions for Intersecting Crises](#)

This policy brief, a collaboration between The Asia Foundation, Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and Fundación Avina, examines how climate change intensifies care demands, weakens care systems, and exacerbates inequalities, and explores how adaptation and mitigation strategies can be employed to ameliorate those stresses. The brief also discusses how care is crucial to building resilience for increasingly frequent climate-related disasters. The policy brief presents actionable recommendations for integrating care systems into climate resilience strategies, advocating for gender-inclusive

policies, sustainable care infrastructure, and democratic representation of care workers in decision-making. Investing in the care economy is not only essential for social equity but also a strategic approach to building resilient, sustainable communities in the face of our changing environment. Learn more about the Foundation's [Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality](#) program.

News



[Remembering David I. Steinberg](#)

The Asia Foundation is saddened to announce the passing of David I. Steinberg, who died on December 5, 2024, at the age of 96. For 18 years of his long and distinguished career, David represented The Asia Foundation in New York, Burma, Hong Kong, Korea (twice) and opened the Foundation's Washington office in 1968. Read the full tribute [here](#).



The Asia Foundation

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.