



The Asia Foundation

Annual Report

2025



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The Asia Foundation works to solve the toughest social and economic challenges in Asia and the Pacific.

WHERE WE WORK

Bangladesh | Cambodia | India | Indonesia | Japan | Korea | Laos | Malaysia |
Maldives | Mongolia | Myanmar | Nepal | Pacific Islands | Pakistan | Papua
New Guinea | Philippines | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Timor-Leste | Vietnam

About The Asia Foundation

The Asia Foundation combines deep expertise, trusted partnerships, and evidence-based insights to advance effective development and policy solutions that endure.

For more than 70 years, we have partnered with governments, communities, and a wide array of changemakers to navigate complexity and help them realize their aspirations. Support for our work comes from bilateral and multilateral government agencies, corporations, foundations, and philanthropists around the world.

We design and implement innovative, contextually grounded, and adaptable programs across four areas of impact that reflect how change happens in the places where we work and the ways in which TAF is uniquely positioned to catalyze progress:

- Advancing effective institutions and public policies
- Equipping individuals and communities to shape their futures
- Building inclusive, future-ready economies
- Strengthening regional and global cooperation

Our priorities across these areas include strengthening evidence-based policymaking; expanding opportunities for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises; advancing women's leadership; supporting conflict prevention and human security; and improving local governance and service delivery. We also help societies navigate emerging issues related to energy transitions and artificial intelligence. And we invest in education, leadership development, and local organizations to sustain long-term impact.

TAF's approach to problem-solving is distinguished by our cultivation of deep contextual knowledge, trusted relationships, and expertise grounded in evidence. We have a dual orientation toward grassroots change plus systemic reform, and we deploy our convening power from the community to international levels. By solving together, we achieve lasting progress.

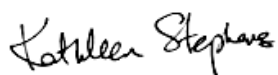
Message

from the Chair and President

Throughout our more than seven decades of work across Asia and the Pacific, The Asia Foundation has adapted to profound change. Few years tested our resilience as deeply as 2025. Seismic shifts in the global funding landscape required difficult decisions and effective leadership across the organization. By year's end, TAF was a somewhat leaner organization than it had been at the start—but also one that had reaffirmed its purpose, strengthened its foundation, and sharpened its focus on the impact we exist to deliver.

Before the external shifts, our organization was already engaged in a comprehensive strategic review of our mission, programs, and operations. The convergence of internal reflection and external change accelerated our intentional evolution—and created the opportunity to make it more holistic. The result is *Strategy 2030*, a five-year framework that clarifies the changes we seek to make in the world and the ways in which we will work to achieve them.

Strategy 2030 is designed to help TAF deliver even greater value in the years ahead. It places a heightened emphasis on achieving lasting outcomes that societies can sustain and deepen beyond our direct contributions.



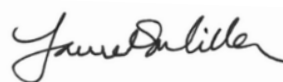
Kathleen Stephens

Chair of the Board and Executive Committee

At the same time, it commits the organization to becoming more streamlined, efficient, and operationally effective. Through targeted investments in our people, systems, and ways of working, we are strengthening the organizational backbone that enables highest-quality programming.

Meanwhile, during last year, TAF's teams and partners across more than 20 countries continued to deliver profound and meaningful results—from strengthening local governance and advancing women's leadership, to supporting conflict prevention, spurring economic opportunity, and helping individuals and small businesses embrace emerging technologies. These efforts reflect our belief that durable progress is achieved by working with local institutions and leaders to solve problems together.

The Asia Foundation entered 2026 on sound footing and moving forward with clarity and confidence. We are more focused in our mission, more disciplined in our operations, and better equipped to deliver impact efficiently and sustainably. Guided by *Strategy 2030*, we look ahead with optimism and renewed commitment to working alongside our partners to help the people of Asia and the Pacific achieve lasting progress.



Laurel E. Miller

President and Chief Executive Officer



Strategy 2030

The Changes We Strive to Make

Strategy 2030 sets The Asia Foundation’s direction for 2026–2030, reaffirming our mission to help solve Asia and the Pacific’s toughest social and economic challenges while strengthening our ability to deliver lasting, locally driven impact. Informed by a comprehensive institutional assessment launched in 2024, the strategy responds to a rapidly changing regional context and funding environment and includes targeted investments in our people, systems, and ways of working to ensure that TAF remains a trusted, effective partner for governments, civil society institutions, the private sector, and communities across the region.

At the heart of *Strategy 2030* is a strategic reframing of the changes we strive to make—shifting from siloed categories toward an integrated, impact-driven framework that reflects how change happens in the contexts where we work and where TAF is best positioned to contribute.



Advance responsive and effective public policies and institutions

Capable institutions and sound policies are essential for delivering public goods, building social trust, mitigating conflict, and meeting people’s needs. TAF works with civil society, governments, and the private sector to strengthen governance systems, improve public service delivery, increase accountability, and expand space for public participation. By combining local insight with evidence-based analysis, TAF helps shape policies that are both technically sound and politically feasible, supporting institutional reforms at subnational, national, and regional levels.



Build inclusive, future-ready economies

As economies across the region continue to drive global growth, TAF focuses on ensuring that economic transformation delivers broad-based prosperity. This includes supporting forward-looking economic policies, expanding digital and technological skills, strengthening environmental resilience, and improving systems that enable women and vulnerable groups to participate fully in economic life. Through targeted partnerships and innovative approaches, TAF helps countries navigate demographic shifts, energy transitions, and technological change.



Equip individuals and communities to shape their futures

Lasting change occurs when people are empowered to drive solutions themselves. TAF invests in education, leadership development, skills building, and community-based institutions—strengthening local capacity, resilience, and agency. These initiatives help individuals and communities improve livelihoods, manage resources sustainably, prevent violence, and expand opportunities for future generations.



Strengthen regional and global cooperation

Many of the region’s most pressing challenges are transnational and require collective action. Leveraging our long-standing regional presence and trusted partnerships, TAF connects actors across borders to foster dialogue, align policies, and build cooperative institutions that reflect regional realities and deliver shared solutions.



To read more about Strategy 2030, go to asiafoundation.org/strategy-2030



Impact Highlights

The following highlights present a sample of TAF's impact in delivering effective and cost-efficient programs in some of the most dynamic and complex settings across Asia and the Pacific in 2025. They reflect our partnership and collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders to design and implement innovative programs that foster sustainable change.

Building Cyber Resilience for the Future Economy

As digital economies expand across Asia and the Pacific, small businesses are increasingly targeted by scams, fraud, and data breaches. The Asia Foundation’s APAC Cybersecurity Fund (ACF), supported by Google.org, is mitigating this risk and preparing people for the future economy by training hundreds of thousands of small businesses in the use of cyber tools and practices.

Active in 13 countries—including Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, and Vietnam—

ACF is designed to reach more than 300,000 micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and 600,000 individuals, while establishing more than 20 university-based cybersecurity clinics to anchor long-term institutional capacity. In 2025, the program expanded practical, locally delivered training, particularly for women-led businesses, focused on securing digital payments, identifying phishing and scam tactics, protecting customer data, and responding effectively to cyber incidents.



Entrepreneurs reported stronger digital confidence and greater awareness of online threats, critical gains as more commerce moves online.

ACF's growing network of cybersecurity clinics bridges technical expertise and small business needs. Hosted in national universities, clinics provide pro bono risk assessments and tailored guidance to MSMEs while building a pipeline of future cybersecurity professionals. This model strengthens both today's businesses and tomorrow's workforce.

At the regional level, ACF advanced policy dialogue on MSME cyber resilience, contributing research on scam-related vulnerabilities and engaging governments and private sector partners to improve coordination and response. By combining large-scale skills training, institutional partnerships, and policy engagement, ACF is helping build safer digital markets across Asia and the Pacific. It ensures that the region's future economy is not only innovative but also secure, trusted, and inclusive.



Advancing Women’s Roles in Building Peace Across Southeast Asia

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by conflict and insecurity, yet they remain underrepresented in the discussions and decisions that shape peace and security. The global Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda seeks to correct this by advancing women’s leadership, protection, and participation in peace-building and governance.

Through *Amplifying Women’s Peace Actions in ASEAN (AMPLIFY)*, TAF’s multi-country initiative funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, this vision is translated into action—strengthening policies, institutions, and grassroots leadership to advance inclusive peace across Southeast Asia.



In 2025, AMPLIFY played a pivotal role in advancing the WPS agenda at the regional level. The program helped shape the agenda and expand civil society engagement at the annual ASEAN WPS Summit in Kuala Lumpur. AMPLIFY also published a comparative political economy analysis on WPS in ASEAN with a country focus on Lao PDR, Cambodia, and the Philippines, and multiple country scoping studies in local languages—equipping policymakers, practitioners, and civil society actors with accessible, context-specific knowledge to strengthen implementation.

At the national level, in Cambodia, the program’s partnership with the Ministry of Women’s Affairs helped enhance the national WPS roadmap and laid critical groundwork for a future national action plan. In Lao PDR, collaboration with the Lao Women’s Union catalyzed the integration of WPS priorities into national planning, strengthening institutional leadership and embedding WPS commitments into the union’s 2026–2030 strategy. Across both countries, AMPLIFY helped civil society organizations to influence policy, collaborate more effectively, and contribute to peace-building at national and community levels.

At the community level, AMPLIFY strengthened women’s leadership where insecurity is most acute. In Cambodia’s Mondul Kiri and Stung Treng provinces, women built confidence and skills to address local security challenges through networks, peer support, and dialogue platforms.



Along the Thailand–Myanmar border, the program supported women human rights defenders and organizations responding to displacement, violence, and conflict while sustaining women’s leadership. AMPLIFY’s programming in Tanintharyi region, Myanmar, enabled lifesaving, survivor-centered responses to violence against women and girls. In Myanmar’s Karenni State, AMPLIFY strengthened gender-based violence awareness and community protection in displacement settings. Through its partnerships with civil society, AMPLIFY also supported WPS capacity building, documentation, and advocacy, and provided psychosocial support to women human rights defenders and women’s rights organizations.

Together, these efforts demonstrate AMPLIFY’s impact: translating the WPS agenda into tangible change for women, communities, and peace across the region.

Building Supportive Reading Environments from the Inside Out

In 2025, the *Let's Read* Program continued to demonstrate that investing in children's reading means investing in the people and communities around them. When children gain access to culturally rooted storybooks in their own languages, the impact goes beyond the individual to their families, their communities, and the creative ecosystems that bring those stories to life. Across Asia and the Pacific, that took many forms last year.

In Cambodia, families experienced change through access: age-appropriate books in children's own languages, available at home. Children who once struggled now read daily, talk through unfamiliar words with caregivers, and ask questions that deepen comprehension and curiosity. More than 50,000 Cambodian families each year share this experience, as reading becomes a habit woven into daily home life.



Across rural Nepal, Let's Read partnered with communities to reimagine reading spaces by honoring tradition. Elders shared oral histories alongside storybooks, strengthening intergenerational ties and driving demand for access to books that exceeded program capacity. Communities carried a renewed sense of why stories matter and who gets to tell them.



In Bangladesh, collaborations with Rohingya writers and illustrators produced books that reflected children's lived experiences while also launching creative careers. One illustrator's first published book became a stepping-stone to mentorship, shaping the next generation of artists. The program's investment in local creative talent creates opportunities that extend well beyond any single title.



In Mongolia and Indonesia, volunteers and teachers scaled reading through consistency and digital reach. A 2025 survey in Mongolia found that weekly parent-child reading increased from 39.5 to 47.5 percent in under-resourced communities where Let's Read works directly, and from 49.7 to 59.6 percent in areas reached through digital outreach alone. In Indonesia, teachers—supported with digital access and training—integrated storybooks across subjects, contributing to nearly 3.8 million digital reads in one year alone.



In 2025, Let's Read showed that investing in children's reading is also an investment in families, in local creative economies, and in communities' relationships with their own stories. The books are for children. The impact belongs to everyone.

Expanding Economic Opportunity in the Pacific Through Digital Skills

In 2025, TAF launched *Go Digital Pacific* to work toward closing the digital divide and advance inclusive economic participation in the Pacific Islands through pilot programs in Fiji and Vanuatu. The program, an evolution of TAF’s successful Google.org-funded Go Digital ASEAN program, is equipping underserved communities with practical digital and financial skills to engage in the digital economy.

The pilot exceeded its goal by 126 percent, engaging 2,260 participants, with notable outcomes. Eighty percent of program participants were women, and there was broad participation from rural communities, youth, and micro-entrepreneurs.



↘ **Participants reported high relevance and uptake of skills:**



94%
increased confidence
in using digital tools



87%
increased confidence
in basic AI tools



92%
found training directly
applicable to work or business



84%
improved financial
management through digital
budgeting and tracking

Participants said they are applying skills in practical ways—developing CVs, marketing small businesses online, and strengthening financial decision-making. These early outcomes reflect a shift from basic digital access to active economic participation, with participants using technology to improve income opportunities and business practices.

The program invested in locally led delivery to support sustainability and scale by developing 12 context-specific training modules; establishing seven partnerships across government and civil society; and training a network of local facilitators to continue delivery beyond the pilot phase. This approach strengthens local systems and positions communities and institutions to drive ongoing digital inclusion.

Future efforts will focus on strengthening pathways from skills development to employment and enterprise growth while addressing ongoing barriers such as connectivity and access to devices.



Developing Asia and the Pacific's Next Generation of Leaders

In 2025, with generous private funding, the Asia Foundation Development Fellows Program brought together 13 highly qualified, competitively selected young professionals from Asia and the Pacific to strengthen their leadership skills and gain in-depth knowledge of the region's critical development challenges. The prestigious, yearlong career advancement fellowship is one of the signature programs of TAF's seven-decade investment in the most promising future leaders in Asia and the Pacific.

Established in 2014, the Development Fellows Program has grown into a robust and influential network of 132 fellows and alumni. The program combines an intensive leadership training program in Asia, a flexible professional development grant to support individual learning goals, access to executive coaching and mentorship, and a leadership dialogue and exchange program in the United States.



The 2025 fellows explored the theme of environmental resilience and adaptation. In February, fellows participated in a two-week immersive program in Nepal and Bhutan, which included leadership development sessions alongside a leaders in action study tour. Highlights included participation in the second biennial Paro Forum, hosted by the JSW School of Law and spearheaded by a Development Fellows Program alumnus. Through interdisciplinary dialogue, fellows examined strategies to address adaptation challenges and water dynamics in fragile mountain ecosystems. Additional site visits and meetings with local organizations provided practical insights into innovation grounded in local values. Hands-on workshops focused on waste management, water conservation, sustainable agriculture, and rural construction.

In October, the fellows convened in the United States for a leadership dialogue and exchange program spanning New York, Washington, D.C., and the San Francisco Bay Area. Engaging with leaders from the nonprofit, public, private, and academic sectors, fellows explored U.S. approaches to environmental resilience, disaster risk reduction, and natural resource management. Visits to the United Nations, NYU's Institute for Policy Integrity, and other organizations were complemented by a leadership retreat emphasizing media engagement and storytelling.



Building a Sustainable Future for Bangladesh's Garment Sector

The ready-made garment (RMG) sector is central to Bangladesh's economy, employing millions of workers, most of whom are women. Yet the sector is under growing pressure from automation, climate shocks, and intense global competition. Women concentrated in lower-paid roles are at greater risk of job displacement and lack access to skills, social protection, and alternative livelihoods—

challenges compounded by unpaid care responsibilities, workplace harassment, and limited access to health and childcare services. At the same time, the RMG sector is transitioning toward low-carbon, climate-resilient production due to market demands and economic threats from natural disasters and extreme weather.



Oporajita: Collective Impact for Women in the RMG Ecosystem—initiated by the H&M Foundation, co-funded by COS and the Swedish government, and convened by TAF with 11 partners—is responding to these interconnected challenges with a strategy that coordinates training and policy inputs from a diverse group of partners, which together results in systemic change. Oporajita supports women garment workers to build skills, agency, and resilience for a future shaped by automation and digitalization, while helping the sector advance toward a low-carbon and competitive model. By linking women’s well-being with innovation and decarbonization, the initiative promotes both an adaptive industry and an inclusive workforce.

In Phase 1, Oporajita reached more than 140,000 women and community members through integrated services spanning skills development, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and social protection. The program trained 7,600 women in technical skills aligned with future job opportunities and supported 1,628 out-of-work women with entrepreneurship training. Nearly 46,000 women strengthened their digital and financial literacy, while more than 28,000 accessed social protection systems.



Phase 2, which began in 2025, builds on these results. It focuses on advancing a just transition in Bangladesh’s RMG sector by strengthening women garment workers’ skills, agency, and resilience. It also supports industry decarbonization, innovation, and competitiveness, leading to an outcome where women are better equipped to access and thrive in higher-skilled roles and the sector becomes more inclusive, climate-resilient, and globally competitive.

Sprouting Knowledge for Policy Impact in Cambodia

Through TAF's Ponlok Chomnes (Sprouting Knowledge) program, supported by the Australian Government, youth engagement in Cambodia is evolving into leadership, with young researchers increasingly shaping national policy conversations—not only as participants, but as authors, analysts, and public commentators.

Over the past seven years, the program has expanded opportunities for young Cambodians to influence decisions shaping their futures. Two complementary fellowships address gaps that universities alone cannot fill: the Ponlok Chomnes Research Fellowship, implemented by the Center for Khmer Studies, builds rigorous



policy research skills, while the 12-month Inclusive Policy Fellowship (IPF) led by Future Forum equips emerging researchers to translate evidence into public debate and policy engagement.

Launched in 2025, the IPF has brought together 30 junior and midcareer professionals, more than half from marginalized communities. Fellows produced policy analyses, most of them published in national media, placing youth-generated analysis directly into debates on topics including urban mobility, equality, and public health. Choosing ambitious reform topics and applying rigorous analytical frameworks—such as political economy analysis and systems thinking—helped young researchers gain credibility in public debate.

One young researcher presented a study on pedestrianization along Phnom Penh’s Sisowath Quay to city officials, which led to the city launching a pilot in 2025 to pedestrianize 57 hectares of the city center. Another fellow prompted senior policymakers to discuss the need for increased women’s representation in Cambodia’s foreign policy leadership.

Through Ponlok Chomnes, The Asia Foundation will continue strengthening platforms that connect youth voices to national decision-making processes.



Turning Forest Rights into Resilient Livelihoods in Indonesia

Since 2011, The Asia Foundation’s environmental governance program in Indonesia, SETAPAK, has been turning policy reform into real gains for people and forests by linking community rights, accountable governance, and sustainable local economies. Now in its fourth phase, the program is distinct for its system-to-communities approach: strengthening law

enforcement, reforming extractive policies, and reshaping fiscal incentives—while simultaneously training and supporting Indigenous peoples, women, and people from other marginalized groups to secure land tenure. That has led to improved forest management and economic security for families in forest communities.



Through the program—funded by the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office—50 regions in the country have adopted ecological fiscal transfer initiatives. In 2025, those initiatives unlocked IDR 149.85 billion (nearly USD 9 million) in public funding for conservation and community-led forest management, bringing the total to more than USD 30 million since the launch of the transfer system. This performance-based funding mechanism creates durable incentives for forest protection at the subnational level.

Also in 2025, SETAPAK helped communities secure long-term rights over an additional 50,000 hectares of forest—bringing the program’s lifetime total to more than 4.5 million hectares—including hundreds of thousands of hectares formally approved for social forestry. Legal recognition results in practical stewardship and livelihoods for families. At the community level, SETAPAK supported dozens of social forestry groups and more than a hundred forest-based enterprises, enabling households to move from informal forest use toward viable, sustainable businesses.

At the same time, through SETAPAK, more than 250 women leaders across 14 provinces are strengthening community oversight of forests, reducing illegal logging and resource extraction, and ensuring forest policies reflect local priorities and long-term sustainability. They are also using traditional knowledge to build food security and income, demonstrating that women-led forest governance delivers improved outcomes for both people and ecosystems.



Improving Health Services Through Local Governance Reform in Nepal

For years, local governments in Nepal relied heavily on the federal system for service delivery and lacked the resources, institutional structures, and technical capacity to manage many functions independently.

When the 2015 Constitution transferred these responsibilities to the local level, municipalities struggled to fulfill the new mandate and required support to build the executive systems and capacity needed to establish services including a functional local public health system.



Over the past seven years, TAF's Subnational Governance Program (SNGP), supported by the Australian government, has worked with local governments to strengthen inclusive and accountable governance. With support from SNGP and its partner Public Policy Pathshala, Waling Municipality began developing a legal framework tailored to its context. In 2022, it became the first municipality in Nepal to draft and enact its own public health act, creating a foundation for improved health service delivery.

The act emerged from a participatory, data-informed process. Waling combined reviews of existing policies with field observations to identify service gaps and engaged legal and medical professionals, teachers, and female community health volunteers to ensure the law reflected local needs. The resulting act introduced initiatives including municipal run pharmacies, mandatory health insurance enrollment, 24/7 ambulance services, and school and community-based health nurse programs.

As of 2025, these reforms have proven transformative. Garhaun Primary Hospital, once a modest clinic, expanded into a 15-bed facility offering emergency services, C-sections, minor surgeries, and diagnostics, now serving up to 400 patients daily from Waling and neighboring districts.



Waling's public health act is now recognized as a model for localized health governance, inspiring municipalities such as Mithila, Tikapur, and Damak to draft similar legislation, demonstrating how participatory policymaking leads to lasting community impact.

Strengthening Justice Sector Capacity in Pakistan

Pakistan has made important strides in strengthening its law and justice system, yet persistent barriers continue to limit access to justice—particularly for vulnerable populations affected by violence, honor killings, trafficking, child abuse, and abduction.

With support from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, TAF is working across 54 districts in Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces to strengthen justice-sector institutions, reduce violence, and improve case outcomes.



In partnership with government agencies and legal experts, the program has trained more than 5,000 justice-sector actors—including police, prosecutors, judicial officers, legal aid providers, victim advocates, and jirga representatives—equipping them with the skills needed to investigate and prosecute cases more effectively.

The program achieved a major milestone through collaboration with the Punjab Criminal Prosecution Service Department, which piloted a smart case-tracking system in Lahore and integrated it across more than 90 police stations. Unlike the province’s previous case management system, the new tracker provides offense-specific insights, enabling real-time case monitoring, workflow automation, data analytics, and stronger interdepartmental coordination. In its first year, the initiative helped raise Punjab’s prosecution conviction rate to 14.8 percent—the highest ever recorded in the province.

Complementing institutional reforms, the program expanded community engagement through mobile legal awareness camps and rights education sessions, reaching nearly 30,000 individuals. By combining training, digital innovation, and public outreach, these efforts are strengthening accountability, improving justice delivery, and building greater trust in Pakistan’s justice system.



Spreading Peace Through Women's Economic Strength in Bangsamoro

After decades of conflict in the Bangsamoro region of the southern Philippines, women have emerged as central drivers of economic recovery and peace—often serving as the primary income earners for their families while navigating limited access to markets and resources.

Through the Australian Government-funded Accelerate Women's Participation for Peace and Prosperity in the Bangsamoro (Accelerate Bangsamoro) program, The Asia Foundation is helping transform these challenges into opportunities for lasting stability in Mindanao.



Accelerate Bangsamoro is built on a simple but powerful insight: when women are equipped with the right skills, confidence, and access to capital, they strengthen not only their households but also their communities. Through structured training, mentoring, and targeted financial assistance, women participants have developed practical business skills, expanded their market reach, and grown as economic leaders.



In 2025 alone, the program delivered business and financial training to more than a thousand women, covering financial literacy, business planning, branding, marketing, and product development. As a result, women increased their monthly incomes by as much as 500 percent, enabling them to better support their children’s education and meet daily household needs.



The program also provided capital assistance to some women-owned and women-led enterprises, helping businesses diversify products and generate new jobs for women and men alike. Notably, 195 women former combatants and widows and wives of former fighters successfully reintegrated into economic life and now manage a cooperative-run kiosk at Cotabato City Airport showcasing nearly 50 locally made products.



Beyond income, Accelerate Bangsamoro is shifting social norms. As families witness the tangible economic impact of women’s work, husbands and sons are increasingly sharing household responsibilities—reinforcing the program’s contribution to more inclusive and resilient communities.

Accelerating Small Business Growth in Rural Vietnam

High in the mountains of northwest Vietnam, opportunity has long felt out of reach—especially for women from ethnic minority communities. In provinces like Dien Bien, many women sustain their families through small, home-based crafts or food businesses. Yet limited access to finance, low digital literacy, and isolation from markets have kept most of these businesses trapped at subsistence level.

Vietnam’s digital economy now accounts for more than 18 percent of GDP, and national initiatives like the One Commune One Product program are opening doors to higher-value markets. But without targeted support, women in remote communities risk being left behind in this transformation.



In 2024, The Asia Foundation launched the *Accelerate Small and Growing Business in Vietnam* program with funding from the Target Foundation. The program has brought women entrepreneurs together in small peer groups focused on practice, trust, and connection.

So far, the initiative has reached more than 2,000 small businesses, most led by women from ethnic minority communities. Nearly 700 entrepreneurs completed intensive training, with satisfaction rates exceeding 96 percent. With coaching support, participants have applied new skills immediately—learning to price products confidently, track income, improve quality and branding, and use digital tools to reach new buyers.

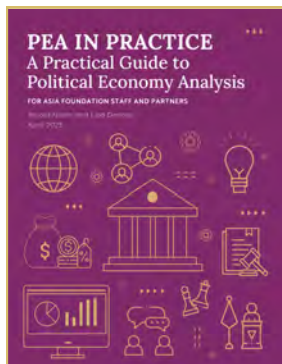
To ensure these gains expand and endure, the program established a business support unit within a local partner organization to provide ongoing advice, mentorship, and market connections. The program piloted market outlets and coordination hubs to help producers reach customers more efficiently and trained people in communities to continue delivering support long after the project ends.

Program outcomes from 2025 show that when women are given not just skills, but access, support, and opportunity, they move from the margins to the marketplace, helping to build more inclusive, resilient economies in some of Vietnam’s most underserved regions.



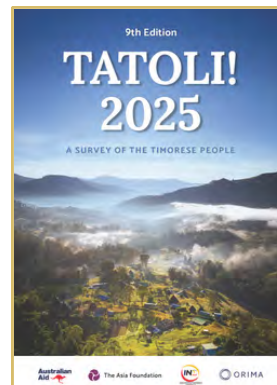
Selected Research and Publications from 2025

Through research and analysis, as well as drawing on our direct, practical experience, TAF produces reports, assessments, and other knowledge products created by our experts and in cooperation with some of our partners. These publications inform public policies, program design, and the continuous refinement of strategies, tools, and methodologies for solving complex challenges in Asia and the Pacific. Our commitment to thought leadership is rooted in our drive to constantly adapt to changing conditions and develop innovative, agile, and efficient programs that lead to a peaceful, just, and thriving Asia and Pacific.



MAY 2025

PEA in Practice:
A Practical Guide
to Political
Economy Analysis



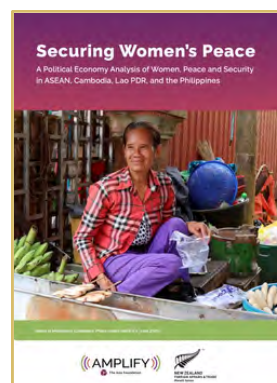
JULY 2025

**Tatoli! A Survey
of the Timorese
People –
2025 Results**



JUNE 2025

**Driving Digital
Innovation:
Opportunities and
Recommendations**



AUGUST 2025

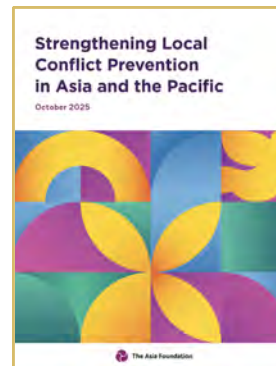
**Securing Women's
Peace: A Political
Economy Analysis of
Women, Peace and
Security in ASEAN,
Cambodia, Lao PDR,
and the Philippines**

Selected Research and Publications from 2025



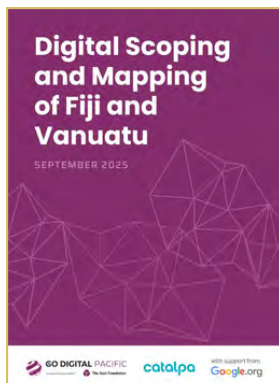
AUGUST 2025

Community-Led Blue Economy Activities in Sabah



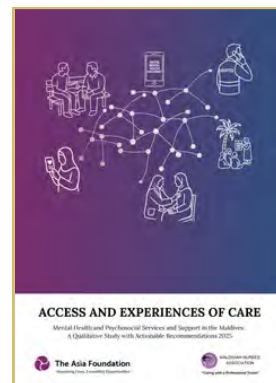
NOVEMBER 2025

Strengthening Local Conflict Prevention in Asia and the Pacific



OCTOBER 2025

Digital Scoping and Mapping of Fiji and Vanuatu



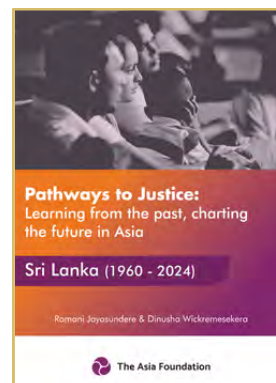
DECEMBER 2025

Access and Experiences of Care: Mental Health and Psychosocial Services and Support in the Maldives



OCTOBER 2025

Navigating Policy Spaces: Civil Society and Policy Influence in Indonesia and the Philippines



DECEMBER 2025

Pathways to Justice: Learning from the Past, Charting the Future in Asia: Sri Lanka (1960-2024)

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