

2025-2026

Lotus Circle Impact Summary

Investing in Women. Strengthening Communities.
Creating Lasting Change.



The Lotus Circle was founded on a simple belief: when women and girls have the opportunity, resources, and support to succeed, families, communities, and societies thrive.

Today, that mission is more important than ever. Across Asia and the Pacific, shrinking international assistance is placing increased pressure on local organizations working to advance education, economic opportunity, justice, and safety for women and girls.

Through flexible philanthropy, the Lotus Circle funds enable The Asia Foundation to respond quickly to emerging needs, sustain trusted local partners, and invest in innovative solutions that create lasting change.

This year, Lotus Circle supporters invested more than \$500,000 in 10 locally led initiatives across eight countries, helping women and girls access education, strengthen economic opportunity, improve access to justice, and build more resilient communities.

Why Collective Giving Works

One Lotus Circle grant often creates impact far beyond the original investment.

Flexible funding allows The Asia Foundation to respond quickly to emerging needs, sustain trusted local partners, and demonstrate solutions that attract larger public and private investment. In this way, each Lotus Circle grant has the potential to expand its reach far beyond the original philanthropic investment.

By investing early in promising ideas and trusted local organizations, Lotus Circle supporters provide more than funding. They provide the flexibility and confidence local partners need to innovate, respond to emerging challenges, and build solutions that continue creating impact long after the initial grant has been made.

By the Numbers

\$500K+
invested

10
grants

8
countries

165
scholarships

4,570
survivors served

220,000+
reached through
entrepreneurship
campaigns

17,000+
reached through
violence prevention

\$5.8M
invested since 2007

Impact in Action

Timor-Leste: Protecting Critical Services

Rapid-response funding helped a key local justice organization continue supporting survivors of violence during a sudden funding disruption, ensuring essential services remained available without interruption.

Laos: Keeping Justice Within Reach

When a trusted legal aid organization faced an unexpected funding gap, Lotus Circle funding ensured women and girls continued receiving free legal representation and counseling while long-term support was secured.

Regional: Opening Doors Through Education

Across Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, 165 young women received scholarships, mentoring, career guidance, and workforce readiness support, helping more girls complete their education and pursue brighter futures.

Bangladesh: Expanding Women's Economic Opportunity

Stories of six successful women entrepreneurs reached more than 220,000 people, inspiring aspiring business owners with practical examples of overcoming barriers and building successful enterprises.



Before, I didn't believe free help was truly possible. But the clinic proved that justice and compassion do exist. I didn't spend a single kip and had a place to rely on during the most difficult times."

-Ms. Bee, legal aid client, Laos



Catalyzing Lasting Change

Sri Lanka: Strengthening Justice for Survivor of Gender-Based Violence

Over the past six years, the Lotus Circle funding has helped The Asia Foundation and its local partners strengthen survivor-centered justice services, improve case management, and expand access to legal and psychosocial support for survivors of gender-based violence.

What began as a nearly \$300,000 investment grew into a nationally recognized initiative that secured an additional \$1.2 million from the European Union, allowing the program to expand its reach and deepen its impact.

This is the power of catalytic philanthropy: flexible funding that demonstrates what works, attracts additional investment, and creates lasting change.



Looking Ahead

As we approach the Lotus Circle's 20th anniversary, we remain committed to investing in locally led solutions that expand opportunity for women and girls across Asia and the Pacific.

In the coming year, the Lotus Circle will continue supporting innovative initiatives that strengthen women's economic opportunity, expand access to justice, advance education, and help communities respond to emerging challenges. By providing flexible funding where it is needed most, the Lotus Circle will continue helping local partners turn promising ideas into lasting impact.





Together, We Create Opportunity

For many young women across Asia and the Pacific, education is more than a pathway to knowledge. It is a pathway to opportunity, independence, and a future that once felt out of reach.

In Vietnam, Lotus Circle-supported scholarships, mentoring, and career readiness programs are helping young women overcome financial barriers and pursue higher education. One of those students is My, whose determination and resilience have inspired everyone who has met her.

Reflecting on her journey, My shared:

“ *I know that without The Asia Foundation's support, I probably wouldn't have made it this far.*”

Her words are a reminder that every scholarship represents more than financial assistance. It represents confidence, opportunity, and the chance to build a brighter future.

**Thank you for helping create opportunities like these.
Through the power of collective philanthropy, Lotus Circle funds
invest in women and girls whose leadership will strengthen families,
communities, and societies for generations to come.**