



The Asia Foundation



UPDATE FROM WASHINGTON DC

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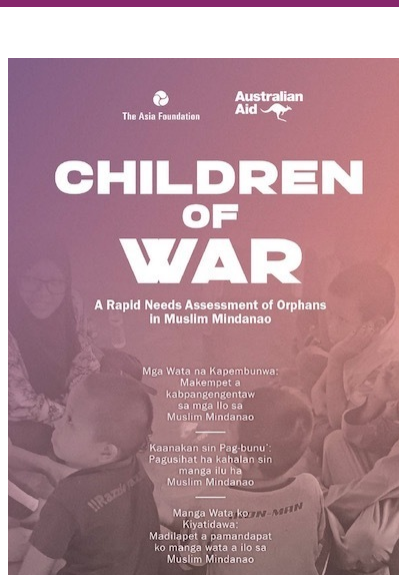
[Let's Read](#)



EVENTS

Past Event - [ONLINE LAUNCH Children of War: A Rapid Needs Assessment of Orphans in Muslim Mindanao](#)

JULY 30, 2020 - The Asia Foundation launched the report [Children of War: A Rapid Needs Assessment of Orphans in Muslim Mindanao](#) which summarizes findings from a rapid assessment of the status of orphans who have lost at least one parent from the wars in Mindanao in the last decade (2009-2019). Minister Raissa Jajurie of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Ministry of Social Services and Development opened the event discussing the existing gap in data and the need for robust data to inform policy. Lead Researcher Ica Fernandez presented findings from the report and outlined recommended interventions. ZamBaSulTa Lead Researcher Hadzer Birowa joined the panel for a vibrant discussion on the current situation and a path forward in BARMM. Read the full report [here](#).



Past Event - [Aid in Conflict-Affected Borderlands: The Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh](#)

JUNE 22, 2020 - Part of the X-Border Local Research network, The Asia Foundation [Conflict and Fragility](#) team presented its recent study [Beyond Relief: Securing Livelihoods and Agency for Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh](#) at the [World Bank Fragility Forum 2020](#). Research highlights the role of transnational family networks and non-aid income in the coping strategies of Rohingya refugees. The report stresses the importance of increasing the self-reliance of refugee households by working on comprehensive livelihood solutions that are acceptable to host communities.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

InAsia Podcast:

Mongolia: [Funding Women Entrepreneurs on the Covid Front Line](#)



The Women's Business Center helped Chuluuntsetseg keep her small business, which almost failed during the pandemic.

Small business woman Chuluuntsetseg graduated from the Asia Foundation [Mongolia Office's](#) Women Business Center incubator program and launched a sewing [business](#). However, as the COVID-19 pandemic worsened, Chuluuntsetseg was forced to close her business. The Asia Foundation's Rapid Response fund stepped in to provide Chuluuntsetseg and 15 other [women entrepreneurs](#) with \$500 emergency grants. Chuluuntsetseg utilized these funds to identify new local suppliers and begin production of personal protective equipment.

InAsia Podcast:

Philippines: [Thinking and Working Politically, a Conversation with Jaime Faustino](#)

Since early 2012, The Asia Foundation's [Coalitions for Change](#) project in the [Philippines](#) has been on the forefront of the emerging discipline of "thinking and working politically," which is...what, exactly? [Jaime Faustino](#), coauthor of a new book on the subject, answers that question with a tale of strange bedfellows, unexpected obstacles, astonishing solutions, and [Coalitions for Change](#).



Jaime Faustino

Vietnam: [Mobile Banking – Financial Inclusion and Economic Empowerment for the Low-Income Population and Women](#)



This study assesses the impact of the first phase of the mobile banking project jointly implemented by the Vietnam Bank for Social Policies, The Asia Foundation in [Vietnam](#), and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The study found that SMS notification services fill a crucial gap in loan management and financial literacy. The project has also helped increase outreach to underserved populations, particularly rural and poor communities, and [women](#).

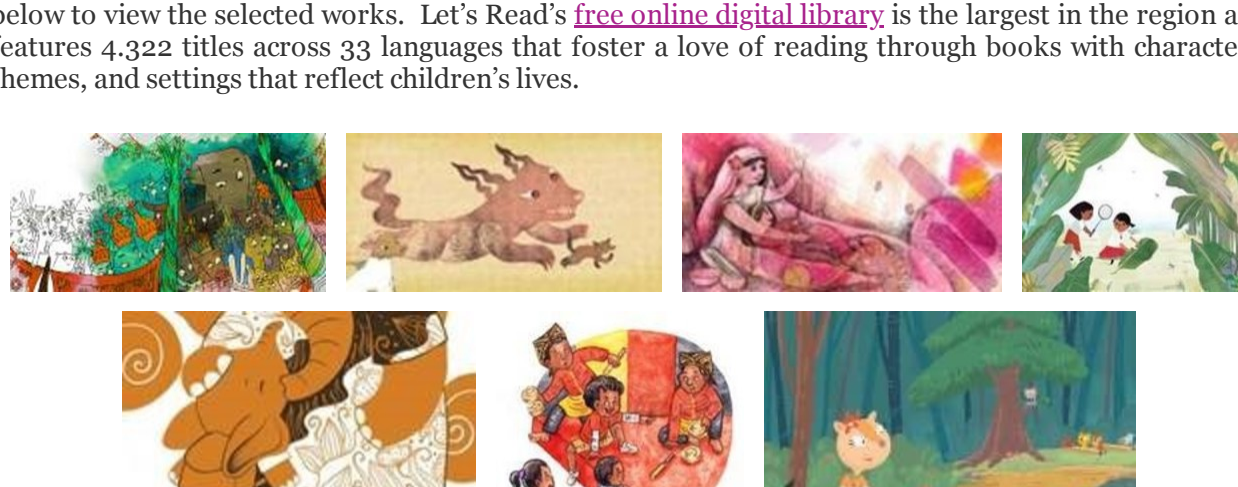
India: [Emerging Gig Economy - The Future of Work for Women](#)



This pilot study explores the role of [India's](#) growing platform-based gig economy on [women's employment](#) and working conditions. The study aims to understand the emerging forms of labor practices and the impact of platform engagement on workers' experiences, challenges, and its impact on women's security, [empowerment](#), and agency.

Seven Let's Read Books Featured at the Asian Festival of Children's Content

Seven [Let's Read](#) digital picture books were selected for the [2020 Book Illustrators Gallery](#) that showcases diverse artwork of illustrators and artists from Asia and the Asian diaspora. Click the images below to view the selected works. Let's Read's [free online digital library](#) is the largest in the region and features 4,322 titles across 33 languages that foster a love of reading through books with characters, themes, and settings that reflect children's lives.

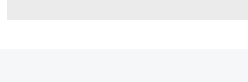


The Asia Foundation

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Informed by six decades of experience and deep local expertise, our work across the region addresses five overarching goals—strengthen governance, empower women, expand economic opportunity, increase environmental resilience, and promote regional cooperation.

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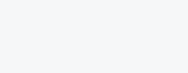
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