

Innovation for Change (I4C)

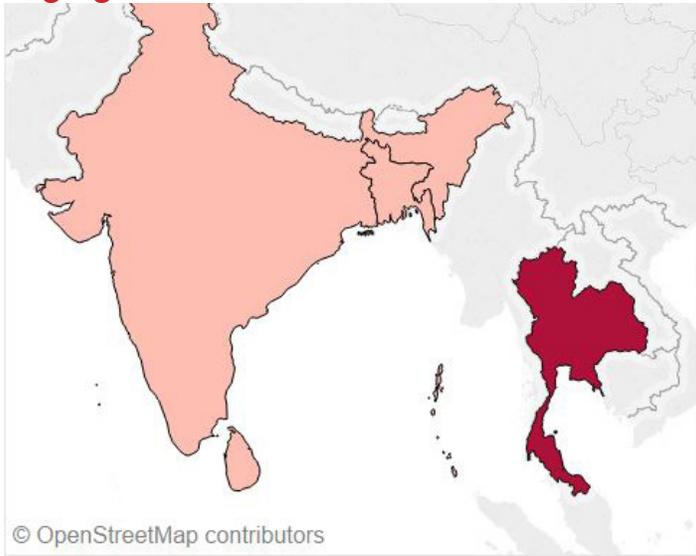
South Asia Hub

Challenge

South Asian governments have escalated pressure on civil society organizations (CSOs), human rights defenders, and journalists. Restrictions on the freedom of association and assembly, as well as the introduction of repressive dissent laws are increasingly common. Funding options for CSOs are curtailed while their activities are actively tracked, which has led to diminished safety and security for activists and human rights defenders.

The South Asia Hub is looking for solutions to assist CSOs facing harsh circumstances impacting the region’s civic space.

Engagements in South Asia



of Convenings 1 2 3 4

The South Asia Hub helps CSOs across the region connect, build solidarity, provide a safe environment for South Asia’s youth, and co-create innovative solutions and partnerships in the region to strengthen civic space.

Innovations

Accountability & Transparency: Hosted “pop-up” events, temporary events, to connect civic leaders, government and private sector to raise awareness on strengthening the civic space.

Advocacy: Compiled data from the Hub and shared a regional report on the state of civil society in South Asia to do evidence-based advocacy.

Digital Security: Trained Hub members on digital and online security, verification processes, fact-checking and securing personal devices.

Global Partnerships: Mapped co-working spaces and academic organizations for potential partnerships and resource exchange.

Innovation Pipeline: Planned local Innovation Labs in the Maldives, India, and Bhutan to strengthen CSO sustainability. Planned Youth Innovation Lab about the role of art and culture for social change.

Knowledge Sharing: Connected human rights defenders with civil society advocates and legal defenders to co-create new approaches for addressing growing human rights concerns.

Research and Development: Hosted workshops to increase financial sustainability in response to new laws passed in the region restricting NGO funding.

The **South Asia Hub** is one of six hubs across the global south in the I4C network. The Helper Hub, comprised of Counterpart and CIVICUS for direct technical support, and Tides, the fiscal agent, assists the regional hubs to become viable and self-sufficient.

Innovation for Change (I4C)

South Asia Hub

About The Hub

The South Asia Hub was co-created with thirty-five civil society representatives from thirty-two organizations representing eight countries across South Asia. It seeks to create an enabling environment that contributes to sustainable development and equitable participation. Ultimately, the South Asia Hub works to strengthen the civic space to create a more just and peaceful society in the region.

Our Focus



Our Work

 **618** Event Participants

 **56** Members

 **7** Engagements

 **8** Countries

Successes

Improved Digital Security Awareness:

Organized digital security trainings to help organizations conduct risk assessments in their own countries. Participants left with a better understanding of how to protect human rights activists and CSO advocates when conducting campaigns.

Pop-Up Festivals: Organized a series of Pop-Up Festivals in 2016 and 2017 designed to raise awareness about civic space challenges. The first Pop-Up coincided with the second annual BRICS CSO Forum held in India and was jointly organized by the Ministry of External Affairs, the Forum for Indian Development Cooperation, and the Research and Information System for Developing Countries.

Research and Skillsharing for Innovative Funding:

Developed trainings on innovative funding strategies and skills share exchanges with CSOs to tap into available resources to counteract the restrictive and shrinking funding environment.

Contact Information

Hub Coordinator

southasia@innovationforchange.net

Main Contact

Noel Dickover, Project Director
noel@innovationforchange.net

Website and Social Media

innovationforchange.net
facebook.com/I4CSouthAsia
facebook.com/ComuniDASALC

Regional Page

south-asia.innovationforchange.net