USAID DIGITAL ASIA ACCELERATOR

Serves as a vehicle for citizens and small businesses to become more digitally savvy and cyber-safe by providing digital and cybersecurity upskilling for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, increasing public awareness of digital safety issues, and providing opportunities to engage on digital policy issues across Southeast Asia

Mission

DAA, implemented by DAI's Digital Frontiers, under the Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership, promotes cybersecurity, digital upskilling, and digital policies that advance more open, inclusive, and free digital economies.

Countries

Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Thailand
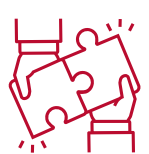
Objectives

Improve micro, small and medium enterprises' digital skills

Increase public awareness of cybersecurity issues

Strengthen private sector & civil society's ability to engage on digital economy policy issues
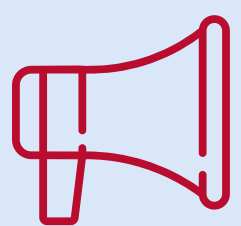
Funding: $8 million

Timeline: 5 years (September 2019 - 2024)

Key Collaborations:

- USAID Bilateral Missions
- U.S. Department of State
- Private Sector Partners
- Local Organizations

The Digital Asia Accelerator engages private sector and local partners to deliver impact across digital ecosystems
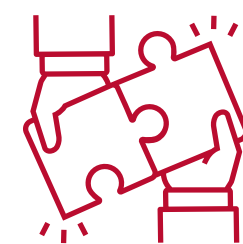
Activity Highlights

REACHED 2,000,000+

Social media users with messages about cybersecurity

UPSKILLED 10,000+

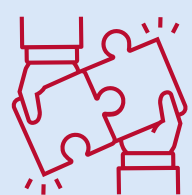People from micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to help their businesses thrive digitally

SUPPORTED MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES

Including women, persons with disabilities, and youth and micro-businesses in rural areas

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

Collaborated with 12 local and international businesses

amazon web services · Microsoft · Smart · Deloitte. · CISCO

monpay · Meta · ХААН БАНК · socialgiver

LINE MAN · BOOST CAPITAL · WhatsApp Business

OVER 20 LOCAL PARTNERS ACROSS 6 COUNTRIES

Engaged to advance digital literacy and cybersecurity for MSMEs and citizens
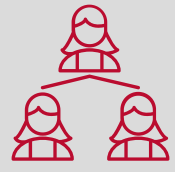
Cambodia   Indonesia   Laos   Mongolia   Myanmar   Thailand

Moving Forward

In the 2023-24, Digital Asia Accelerator (DAA) will seek opportunities to convene like-minded stakeholders, including enterprises of all sizes from across the Indo-Pacific, to strengthen private sector engagement in the development of digital policy recommendations that advance the vision of an open, interoperable, secure, and reliable internet that fosters inclusive economic development in the region. Upcoming highlights include:

Women's Digital Inclusion Challenge

Addresses the gender digital divide in Southeast Asia by upskilling women entrepreneurs and women-owned businesses (WSMEs). DAA partners with organizations that have delivered successful digital upskilling programs who are looking to scale their operations to reach new countries and communities. Through the Challenge, partner organizations provide digital upskilling support such as business training, finance capabilities, coaching, cybersecurity capabilities and digital support tools to build a gender-responsive suite of support to enable WSMEs to scale and create economic, social, and environmental impact.

Digital Policy Advocacy Support

Aims to strengthen micro, small, and medium-sized enterprise's (MSMEs) ability to engage in digital economy and cybersecurity policy issues. This activity identifies MSMEs' digital trade policy gaps and needs, addresses those gaps through workshops, network building, and resource sharing, and brings MSMEs and policymakers together creating a space for MSMEs to voice their needs and lead changes that are important to their business development. The overall goal of this effort is to advance MSMEs' ability to engage and advocate for digital policies that promote secure, open, interoperable, and inclusive digital economies.

Virtual Digital Policy Roundtable Series

DAA, in collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union, hosted the first session of the Virtual Digital Policy Roundtable Series on Cybersecurity Policy in the Indo-Pacific, to explore challenges and solutions facing small and medium-sized businesses in the region related to cybersecurity policy issues. The following sessions of the series will cover topics including data privacy, responsible use and governance of AI, responsible deployment of private 5G networks and digital inclusion.

Women in Cybersecurity Research

Intends to understand the state of the cybersecurity workforce, the workforce gap, and women's participation in the sector (the gender gap), in five target countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, and Thailand. The program will produce a report that will also identify challenges to closing the gender gap in those countries and recommendations on how to address those gaps. This research will be done in support of International Telecommunications Union's Women in Cyber Mentorship Asia-Pacific Program 2022 and lay the foundations for future iterations of the Program, through data-driven targeted capacity development.

For more information, please visit www.usaid.gov/asia-regional or email info-rdma@usaid.gov