

AJWS GRANTMAKING GUIDELINES

AJWS's MISSION

American Jewish World Service (AJWS) is an international development organization motivated by Judaism's imperative to pursue justice. AJWS is dedicated to alleviating poverty, hunger and disease among the people of the developing world regardless of race, religion or nationality. Through grants to grassroots organizations, volunteer service, advocacy and education, AJWS fosters civil society, sustainable development and human rights for all people, while promoting the values and responsibilities of global citizenship within the Jewish community.

GRANTMAKING MISSION

AJWS's grant making supports grassroots communities that are working to create a just and equitable world where human rights are universally recognized, where poverty, discrimination and violence no longer exist and where individuals are free to flourish and live their lives with dignity.

AJWS's grant making is guided by the following beliefs:

- Grassroots organizations are best placed to envision, articulate and implement their own plans for the development of their communities and countries.
- Community development cannot take place when human rights are denied.
- Women are critical drivers of community development and change; community life cannot truly flourish when women are not fully empowered to resist gender-based violence and oppression.
- Marginalized communities that are vulnerable to poverty and human rights violations are powerful agents of change and development when mobilized from within.

**AJWS' work is guided by the values and norms that are enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the preamble of which begins, "Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world." <http://www.udhr.org/UDHR/default.htm>*

GRANTMAKING THEMES

AJWS supports non-governmental, community-based organizations (CBOs) in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia, working in the following thematic areas:

I. Sustainable Livelihoods and Sustainable Development. AJWS grants are strengthening the capacity of grassroots organizations to advance economic and environmental sustainability, promote fair labor standards and raise the social status of women and marginalized communities. Priorities include:

- Sustainable Agriculture and Biodiversity
- Food Security

- Land and Resource Rights
- Economic Opportunities
- Slum and Urban Development

2. **Community Health.** AJWS is helping to raise community health standards by increasing access to services, fostering community engagement in disease prevention and control and eliminating gender-based violence. Priority issues include:

- HIV/AIDS care and support, advocacy for comprehensive services and reducing stigma
- Women's health: including reproductive and maternal and child health and rights
- Preventing and controlling disease through health education and nutrition, with a focus on HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria
- Maternal and child health and rights
- Strengthening community and government health systems
- Violence prevention

3. **Education for All.** AJWS grants are strengthening primary and secondary education for students in public schools, extending non-formal education to children and vocational training to youth and adults that have been excluded from mainstream school settings. Priority issues include:

- Expanding access to both government-provided and non-formal education, with a focus on keeping girls, orphans and children affected by conflict in school
- Improving the quality of education through teacher training, curriculum development and community engagement and oversight of local schools
- Vocational and literacy training for youth and adults
- Early childhood development programs

4. **Community Response in Conflicts and Emergencies.** AJWS supports local organizations affected by disasters and conflict to move toward peace and development. Priorities include:

- Strengthening international and community-led disaster response, preparedness and risk reduction
- Providing psychosocial support for affected communities
- Disarming, demobilizing and reintegrating combatants, particularly children
- Supporting peace-building and economic empowerment efforts, particularly led by women and youth
- Transitioning from disaster to development in the areas of sustainable livelihoods, community health and education for all

5. **Community Voice: Civic and Political Participation.** AJWS supports communities to participate in designing the policies and programs that directly affect

their lives. Highest priority is given to policy advocacy and community mobilization efforts that are led by local organizations working to promote:

- Women's Rights
- Indigenous Rights
- Religious and Ethnic Minority Rights
- Sexual Minority Rights
- Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Rights
- The Rights of People Living With AIDS
- The Rights of People With Disabilities
- The Rights of Farmers and Workers
- Children, youth and adolescent participation

Grantmaking Framework and Approach

The grants department pursues its mission through interrelated strategies:

Grants: AJWS provides flexible, long-term, direct financial support to local organizations to implement their own visions and plans for community development and social change.

Partnerships: AJWS actively pursues partnerships with other donors, international networks and NGOs to facilitate access for our grantees to resources, training and policy making bodies. AJWS supports key international and national organizations through our Collegial Partnership Grants Program.

Capacity Building: AJWS facilitates opportunities for our grantees to build their organizational capacity through collaboration with the AJWS Volunteer Corps, peer learning, tailored evaluation and follow-up training and by expanding the field of local capacity building providers through grants to country-based training networks.

Advocacy: AJWS facilitates the inclusion of grassroots voices in national, bi- and multilateral and United States foreign policy debates through collaboration with AJWS's Advocacy Department and by providing travel grants for grantees to attend key meetings and policy making forums. We also fund regional policy advocacy organizations that draw upon the voices and expertise of our grantees and their ally organizations.