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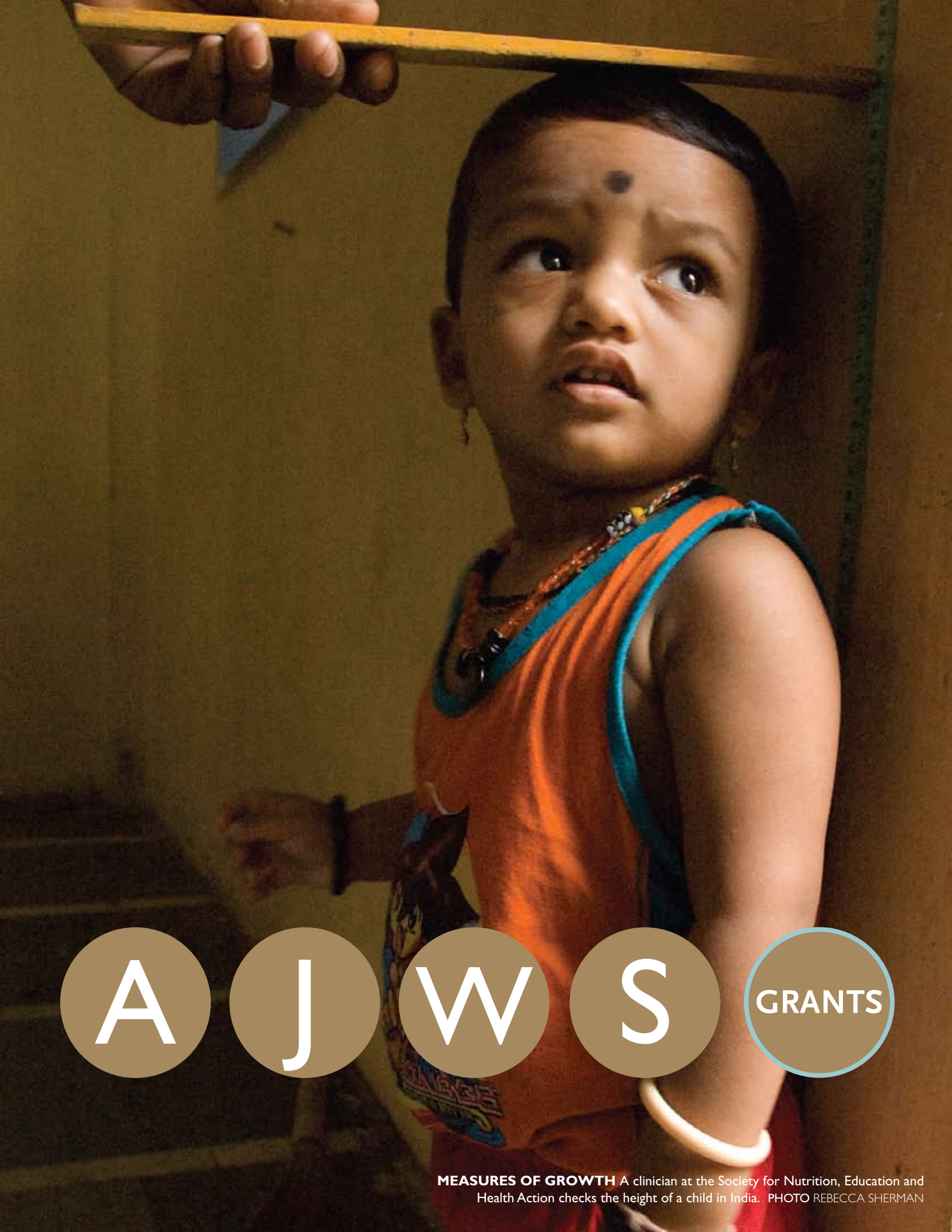
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GRANTS



Pursuing Global Justice
Through Grassroots Change



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MEASURES OF GROWTH A clinician at the Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action checks the height of a child in India. PHOTO REBECCA SHERMAN

Our Commitment to Grantmaking

Since 1985, American Jewish World Service (AJWS) has been committed to supporting grassroots development and human rights in Asia, Africa and the Americas, motivated by Judaism's imperative to pursue justice. Through the grants that we make to local organizations across these continents, AJWS stands united with communities and people effecting change. When we connect with and support the tremendous efforts of grassroots leaders and advocates, both our work and theirs is strengthened.

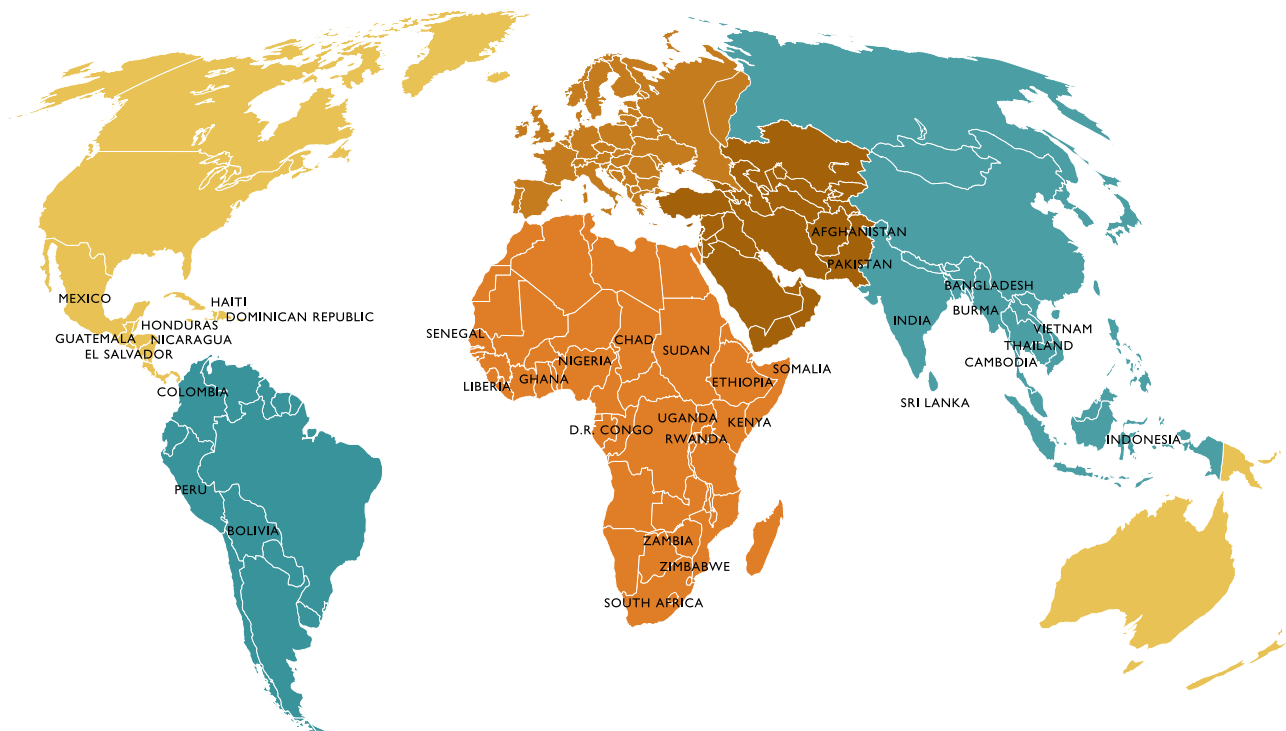
By funding community-based organizations operating in remote rural areas, urban slums and areas of conflict, AJWS reaches out to people whose needs aren't always

met by traditional development efforts. Because these groups are often marginalized by their local governments and societies, working with them necessarily means combining service provision and community development with efforts to demand public services, ensure respect for human rights and reduce discrimination.

Our partners are innovative, committed and courageous. On a daily basis they build solutions to poverty and discrimination, and advocate for change not only in their immediate areas but also at the highest levels of government. They are passionate about the work that they do and we are inspired by their success. We are proud and honored to share this work with you.

Ruth Messinger
President

Kate Kroeger
Director of Grants



Grantmaking Principles and Strategies



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD Selling fresh fish in Ghana.

Grantmaking Principles

AJWS supports grassroots communities that are working to create a just and equitable world. This work is guided by the values and norms that are enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: *“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.”*

AJWS and its partners firmly believe that:

- 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.

Strategies of Support

AJWS pursues its grantmaking mission through four interrelated strategies:

Grants: AJWS provides local organizations with long-term funding that goes beyond project support, to enable these groups to implement their own 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 domestic and international policy debates. It provides travel grants for grantees to attend key meetings and policy-making forums and funds regional advocacy organizations that draw upon the voices and expertise of grantees and their ally organizations.

Grantmaking Themes

AJWS supports non-governmental, community-based organizations in Africa, Asia and the Americas, working in the following areas:

Sustainable Livelihoods and Sustainable Development:

AJWS grants strengthen 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, biodiversity and food security
- Land and resource rights
- Economic opportunities
- Slum and urban development

Community Health: AJWS helps raise community health standards by increasing access to services, fostering community engagement in disease prevention and control, and eliminating gender-based violence. Priorities include:

- Prevention of HIV/AIDS and other diseases, as well as care, support, education and advocacy
- Women's and children's health and human rights
- Strengthening of health care systems
- Violence prevention

Education for All: AJWS grants strengthen public school education, non-formal education and vocational training for youth and adults that have been excluded from mainstream school settings. Priorities include:

- Expanding access to education for girls, orphans and children affected by conflict
- Improving the quality of education through teacher training, curriculum development, community engagement and school oversight

- Supporting vocational and literacy training
- Promoting early childhood development programs

Community Engagement in Conflicts and Emergencies: AJWS supports the efforts of communities affected by disaster and conflict to move toward peace and development. Priorities include:

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

Community Voice—Civic and Political Participation:

AJWS supports communities in their efforts to design the policies and programs that directly impact their lives. Highest priority is given to efforts that are led by local organizations working to promote the rights of:

- Women
- Children, youth and adolescents
- Indigenous people
- Religious and ethnic minorities
- Sexual minorities
- Refugees and internally displaced people
- People living with HIV/AIDS
- People with disabilities
- Farmers and workers



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT A Mayan girl participates in an event held by AJWS grantee FESIRGUA, which works to develop leadership and safety for women and girls in Indigenous communities in central Guatemala.

AJWS Grantmaking in the AMERICAS



PHOTO DAVID ROTBARD

FOOD SECURITY A mother hands her child a kernel of popcorn in Paucartambo, Peru.

AJWS's work in the Americas encompasses 10 countries in the Caribbean, Mesoamerica and South America. Grants in the region focus on the rights of Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, women and youth, sexual minorities and people living with HIV/AIDS.

In **Mexico, Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, and Honduras**, AJWS supports Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples' organizations in their work to preserve their ancestral lands and natural resources, resist harmful large-scale industrial projects and fully realize their collective rights to self-determination and civic and political participation.

In **El Salvador, Mexico, Haiti, Colombia and Nicaragua**, AJWS supports initiatives that develop sustainable agriculture and local commerce and advocate for land rights, to help overcome devastation wrought by years of trade liberalization, environmental degradation and government neglect of small-scale farming.

Effective, accessible and equitable health and education systems depend on the active participation of women and youth. In **Guatemala**, AJWS partners operate community-based schools that provide high-quality bilingual intercultural education. In **Peru, Bolivia and Mexico**, grassroots women's groups advocate against discriminatory health policies and gender-based violence. In **El Salvador and Honduras**, grantees train young people as peer educators in sexual and reproductive health and in addressing issues affecting sexual minorities.

In regions of violence and armed conflict, AJWS grantees work to improve people's livelihoods, health and education while advancing peace and security. In **Colombia**, partners build the civic and political participation of internally displaced people and demobilized youth. In **Haiti, Honduras and Colombia**, where conflicts are often exacerbated by disputes over land and resources, AJWS's partners work to restore ecosystems and build secure livelihoods.

Grantee Spotlight

The Association of Producers for the Community Development of la Ciénaga Grande del Bajo Sinu (ASPROSIG) is a Colombian grassroots network of farmers, fisherfolk and Zenu Indigenous people working to protect the natural environment and build agricultural sustainability. With AJWS's support, ASPROSIG is developing a comprehensive territorial management program that will establish 100 small agro-ecological farms, enhancing the food security of local people and preventing internal displacement.

"Our efforts to build alternative forms of rural development are our way to preserve our life and our natural resources... We have deep roots here and great love for our natural systems. Our ancestral roots and our symbiotic relationship with the river and the mangroves give us life."

Jaminson Pitalua, ASPROSIG

AJWS Grantmaking in AFRICA

AJWS works in 16 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, funding organizations that promote access to healthcare, education and sustainable livelihoods, and support exceptionally disadvantaged groups.

Addressing the impact of HIV/AIDS and promoting economic and food security for affected and infected individuals are priorities for AJWS's grantmaking across the continent. AJWS partners in **South Africa** are improving access to HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment; grantees in **Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda** and **Zambia** are providing home-based care, scholarships and other support to families living with the virus and raising orphans; in **Nigeria** and **Ghana**, partners are working to give sexual minorities access to information and healthcare.

Approximately 60 percent of adults living with HIV/AIDS in Africa are women and girls. Unequal power structures and gender discrimination make them more vulnerable to infection and more heavily burdened by poverty, violence and injustice. In **Zimbabwe** and across the continent, AJWS grantees are developing sustainable livelihoods programs for women and providing support for domestic violence survivors.

Chronic food insecurity leaves disenfranchised communities vulnerable to starvation, exploitation and abuse. Grants in rural areas of **Senegal** focus on sustainable agriculture activities, environmental management and income-generation for small-scale farmers.

In conflict-affected countries and those transitioning to peace, AJWS supports emergency aid, trauma relief and reconstruction. In the **Democratic Republic of Congo** and

Sudan, partners provide relief to displaced communities and run community-based disarmament and reintegration campaigns for child soldiers. Women's participation is essential to peacebuilding, as reflected in AJWS's grants in **Rwanda** and **Liberia**.

Grantee Spotlight

Education as a Vaccine Against AIDS (EVA) has partnered with AJWS since 2005 to provide trainings in sexual and reproductive health to schoolteachers in the three Nigerian states with the highest rates of HIV infection. In 2008, EVA launched the +OVC Education Campaign, which lobbies government officials and school administrators to include orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) in schools and informal education programs. As part of this initiative, EVA researches, documents and publicizes information about the factors limiting HIV-affected children's access to education, and builds caregivers' capacity to support these children as they return to school.

"I have learned so much this term from my English teacher: she has made me understand that if I want to be a great woman I must place my priorities right, I must work hard, concentrate on my books and learn to say no and mean no."

Mngumber, female student,
Government Secondary School, Mbawa Benue State



SAFE REFUGE A girl drinks from an IDP camp well in in Jajtondo Town, Liberia.

PHOTO MATTHEW EMBRY

AJWS Grantmaking in ASIA



PHOTO DORCUS MOO

EDUCATION FOR ALL Schoolchildren, Burma.

AJWS works in eight countries in Asia, funding organizations that pursue equality for ethnic, religious and sexual minorities, women, small farmers, people living with HIV/AIDS and other marginalized groups. AJWS continues to support reconstruction in the wake of the devastating tsunami of 2004, with a focus on government responsiveness to the needs of the disenfranchised and on building community resilience in preparation for future emergencies.

Securing land rights and control over natural resources is a priority for grantmaking across Asia. In **India**, **Thailand** and **Cambodia**, AJWS supports Indigenous and socially marginalized communities whose ways of life are threatened by large-scale industrial projects such as mining, logging, dam construction and cash-crop-focused agriculture.

Grantmaking in **India** and **Thailand** addresses rampant occupational inequality and labor exploitation among low-caste communities and undocumented Burmese migrants, who face hazardous working conditions and are denied access to adequate legal protection. Grants fund labor rights training, labor policy reform, legal aid, education, and occupational health and safety.

It is critical in Asia to counter violence and discrimination based on gender and sexuality. Grantees in **India** pay special attention to the needs of adolescent girls and survivors of domestic violence. In **Cambodia**, AJWS partners work to reduce gender-based violence in the workplace, particularly for garment workers and sex workers.

In regions of devastating protracted conflict, AJWS grantees foster civil society. The military's campaign of ethnic cleansing in eastern **Burma** has left over half a million people displaced from their homes. Decades of conflict in **Afghanistan** have decimated basic health, education and economic infrastructure. In **Sri Lanka** the escalating civil war has increased ethnic divisions. In these complex emergencies, our partners are providing essential social services and building a foundation for peace.

Grantee Spotlight

Karen Student Network Group (KSNG) addresses educational gaps in Burma left by conflict and displacement, and prepares youth to become the future leaders in the struggle for a free and democratic Burma. With AJWS funding, KSNG runs the Karen Internally Displaced School (KIDS) Project, which supports five community schools in Karen State and provides teacher stipends, educational materials, student uniforms and healthcare.

"When I was in grade three, the Burmese military regime burned down our village and forced us to flee. At 12 years old I had to work as a soldier, but eventually, I was able to go to the refugee camp and return to school through KSNG. I want to be a useful person in my community. I intend to continue my studies and then come back to Karen State to help in any way I can."

18-year-old student, KIDS

COLLEGIAL PARTNERSHIP Grants Program

Through Collegial Partnership Grants, AJWS formalizes partnerships with like-minded international and regional organizations that collaborate with grassroots NGOs in ways that complement AJWS's mission.

Collegial Partners are a diverse group of international advocacy, training and human rights organizations, regional networks of grassroots NGOs and small, innovative grantmakers. They train, fund, collaborate with and advocate on behalf of community-based organizations (including many AJWS partners), building local capacity and bolstering movements for global change. Collegial Partners demonstrate expertise in areas that are aligned with AJWS's priorities, including disability rights, women's issues, disaster risk reduction and grassroots development.

These grants enable AJWS to provide additional resources for grantees, deepen our own knowledge and skill base and support exceptional innovation on the regional and international levels.

Grantee Spotlight

Front Line: The International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders protects and educates non-violent humanitarian activists in 90 countries. AJWS funds Front Line's International Security and Capacity Building Program for Human Rights Defenders, which promotes awareness of personal security, self-care and effective personal protection measures, and aims to build a network of regionally-based trainers that can provide support when activists are threatened. AJWS routinely refers grantees to Front Line's vital trainings.

"Just yesterday I came back from the workshop on EU guidelines for human rights defenders. We met and interacted with diplomats of 15 EU countries who are active on human rights issues and learned how to mobilize their support in the hour of crisis."

AJWS grantee and Front Line training participant,
India

FACES OF CHANGE Two girls living in a slum in Mumbai, India.



PHOTO REBECCA SHERMAN





American Jewish World Service 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.



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COVER Schoolchildren, Democratic Republic of Congo. **PHOTO** MATTHEW EMBRY
INSIDE BACK COVER Ghanaian women who participated in an animal husbandry
microfinance project funded by AJWS grantee ICA Ghana. **PHOTO** LIZ VAISBEN