



# YEAR IN REVIEW: **2019 BY THE NUMBERS**

Together We're Building a New World

# WHERE ACTION LEADS TO CHANGE

Through AJWS, your  
tzedakah is building  
powerful movements for  
justice in 19 countries.



**\$36 MILLION\***

Invested in our grantmaking and social change strategies in 2019 to advance human rights and end poverty in the developing world

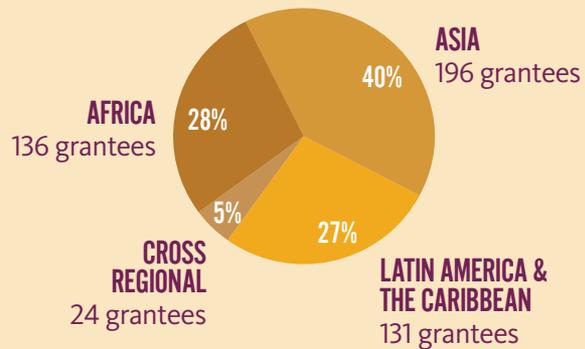
*\*Including \$5.4 million invested through a donor-advised fund that AJWS administers.*

## MAKING CHANGE AROUND THE GLOBE

In 2019, AJWS supported **487 social justice organizations** fighting poverty and promoting human rights in **19 countries**.

Together, they're changing millions of lives.

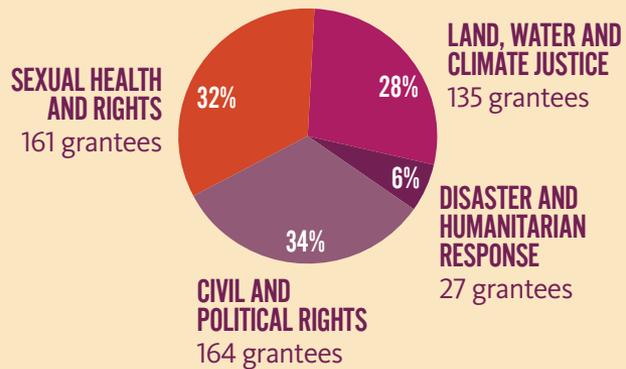
### GRANTEES BY REGION



## REPAIRING THE WORLD, ISSUE BY ISSUE

AJWS met the challenges of 2019 by focusing deeply on **four key issues**:

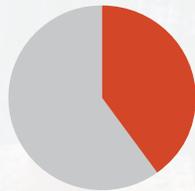
### GRANTEES BY ISSUE



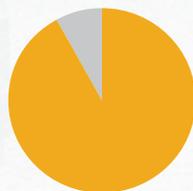


## BUILDING COLLECTIVE POWER TO MULTIPLY IMPACT

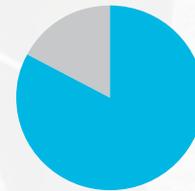
AJWS's **29 in-country experts** mentor our grantees to help them grow, form alliances with one another and build strong social movements that have the power to make large-scale change.



**39%** of our grantees are **young organizations** founded within 5 years of their first AJWS grant.



**93%** of our grantees **engage in advocacy** to advance laws and policies to promote human rights.



**82%** of our grantees are members of networks or coalitions that **work together to effect more change**.

Our grantees belong to **38 social change movements** worldwide.

# TRANSFORMING LAWS AND LIVES WORLDWIDE

The organizations AJWS supports and the movements they're a part of are currently litigating precedent-setting court cases and working to shape more than 150 laws and policies to protect human rights locally, regionally and nationally.



## DISPLACED GUATEMALANS WIN LAND



**Impact:** 81 indigenous families own land for the first time

Many indigenous Mayan families have spent decades uprooted because landowners evict them at their whim, sometimes by force. In 2019, **Comité Campesino del Altiplano (CCDA)** supported 81 displaced families to secure official legal land titles—now, they are finally laying roots in their own soil.



## KENYAN COURT HALTS COAL PLANT



**Impact:** Threat to health and the environment averted for over 100,000 people in Lamu county

In June 2019, a Kenyan environmental court froze plans for a coal plant in a case lodged by **deCOALonize** and litigated by **Katiba Institute**—both AJWS grantees. The ruling came just weeks after deCOALonize made national headlines by exposing the harm that the plant would cause.



## EL SALVADOR ADVANCES TRANS RIGHTS



**Impact:** Dignity for trans and gender non-binary Salvadorans

In 2018, after years of advocacy by AJWS grantees and others, the FMLN (a major political party) introduced a groundbreaking bill enabling Salvadorans to change their gender on official documents. In May 2019, elected officials agreed to hold hearings to consider it—a major step towards equality.

# Together We're Building a New World WHERE ALL PEOPLE ARE FREE FROM PERSECUTION

In countries where people's human rights are under attack, AJWS supported **164 organizations** stopping oppression, building democracy and defending basic freedoms for all.

Two years after the Burmese military unleashed a genocide against the Rohingya people of Western Burma—driving over 740,000 to flee to Bangladesh—AJWS continues to aid survivors and stand with this persecuted community. Our grantees have **taught 120,000 refugees about staying healthy** in the dangerously overcrowded refugee camps, and they've **ensured that 7,500 children have access to medical care and education**.

We have also supported Rohingya activists to speak out on Capitol Hill and at the UN, and we mobilized a united Jewish coalition calling for justice for the Rohingya people.



# DISASTER & HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AROUND THE WORLD



## TSUNAMIS AND EARTHQUAKES

Indonesia, Haiti, Mexico

## STORMS

Hurricane Matthew: Haiti

Cyclone Fani: India & Bangladesh

Tropical Storm Vicente: El Salvador

## FLOODING AND MUDSLIDES

Burma, Sri Lanka

## COMMUNITIES DISPLACED BY DROUGHT, HUNGER & CONFLICTS

East Africa hunger crisis: South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda

Rohingya genocide & other ethnic conflicts: Burma, Bangladesh

Conflict: Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico



Together We're Building a New World

# WHERE COMMUNITIES CAN REBUILD & GROW

When natural disasters or humanitarian crises strike vulnerable communities, AJWS is by their side. This year, we supported **27 organizations** providing emergency aid and staying the course to advance human rights as families recover.

Together We're Building a New World

# WHERE WOMEN & GIRLS THRIVE

In a year when reproductive choice was under fire and LGBTQI people were persecuted around the world, AJWS supported **161 organizations** to promote equality, stop violence and help people live with dignity, safety and health.



In India, **Kashtakari Panchayat** is forging new paths for women to create better futures for their daughters.

In Kenya, **Trust for Indigenous Culture and Health (TICAH)** is teaching women that their bodies are their own through peer-education.

In Thailand, **BUKU** is creating a safe, open community for women, girls and LGBTQI people—including a feminist bookstore and an all-gender soccer team.

And in El Salvador, **COMCAVIS Trans** is helping trans women advocate for their human rights.

A man wearing a pink shirt and a headscarf stands in a lush forest, holding a plant. The sun is low in the sky, creating a warm, golden glow. The background shows dense green foliage and a misty atmosphere.

In tiny Baan Klang village, nestled in a forest in Northern Thailand, foreign investors, industrial developers and government officials are threatening to seize land that's belonged to villagers for over 300 years. AJWS grantee **Northern Peasant Federation (NPF)** is defending their ancestral land in court—so villagers can retain their role as “protectors of the forest.”

Together We're Building a New World  
**WHERE THE PLANET  
IS PROTECTED**

With global warming on the rise, AJWS supported **135 grantees** defending land, water & climate justice—safeguarding the natural resources rural and indigenous people depend on for survival.

# Together We're Building a New World **WHERE YOU ARE TRANSFORMING LIVES**

AJWS unites the power of **170,000 supporters** from all 50 states and around the world. Adding up the impact of our community—from our extraordinary grantees in 19 countries, to our philanthropic partners, to our community of supporters and activists raising their voices across the U.S.—we are changing millions of lives together.



## **JEWISH ENGAGEMENT FOR JUSTICE**

**14** Global Justice Fellows (clergy leading activism for social change) in 2019

**428** Alumni of our rabbinic programs fostering actions from their pulpits

**25** Jewish organizations responding to the Rohingya genocide in coalition with AJWS

**1,800** Rabbis in our clergy network across the U.S.



Meeting the Highest Standards of  
**PHILANTHROPIC INTEGRITY**

**“FOUR STARS”**

from *Charity Navigator*  
for 16 years

**MEETING ALL 20**

of *Better Business Bureau's* standards  
for charity  
accountability

**“A” RATING**

by *CharityWatch*  
(formerly *American Institute of Philanthropy*)  
since 2004

**AWARD:**

“2019 Best Multi-Channel Campaign of the Year”  
from *Direct Marketing Fundraiser's Association*

## PHOTO CAPTIONS:

**FRONT COVER:** In Casamance, Senegal, AJWS grantee COPI supports women to plant “peace gardens.” These collective garden plots generate income and help bring neighbors together to resolve tensions from the country’s longstanding civil war. *Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik*

**PAGE 1:** In Malindi, Kenya, vast salt factories have poisoned farmland and plunged families deep into poverty. AJWS grantee Malindi Rights Forum has mobilized this community to fight the factories in court and return land to the community. *Photo by Christine Han*

**PAGE 2:** A group of Guatemalan farmers recently became land owners for the first time—a joyous development after years without a plot of land to call their own. *Photo by Christine Han*

**PAGE 3:** Scouts from Kenya’s Ogiek tribe are replanting trees in the Mau Forest, their ancestral home, which has been decimated by logging and agriculture. With support from Ogiek Peoples’ Development Programme (OPDP), the community won a landmark case protecting this land for the future. *Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik*

**PAGE 4:** In May 2019, AJWS convened 21 Guatemalan grantees for a three-day retreat. The activists formed bonds that will strengthen their growing movement to confront authoritarian leadership in their government and bolster equality in the country. *Photo by Christine Han*

**PAGE 5:** Photos from far left by: *Christine Han, deCOALonize, Jonathan Torgovnik*

**PAGE 6:** In Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, Rohingya refugees struggle to survive in what is now the largest refugee camp in the world. *Photo by Stockimo/Alamy Stock Photo*

**PAGE 7:** A survivor of a catastrophic hurricane in Haiti rebuilds his home using supplies funded by a grant from AJWS. *Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik*

**PAGE 8:** In Pattani, Thailand, the BUKU Football Club warms up for their weekly Saturday night game. In Thailand’s conservative South, the team is a rare safe space for young women, girls and LGBTQI people to play, lead and be themselves. *Photo by Allison Joyce*

**PAGE 9:** Baan Klang chief Som Chat looks out over the lush forest that sustains and feeds his village in northern Thailand—land that his community has been protecting for generations. *Photo by Allison Joyce*

**PAGE 10:** The sun sets over Garita Palmera, El Salvador. AJWS supports organizations in El Salvador that fight to protect communities from environmentally damaging development projects. *Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik*

**PAGE 11:** These women in Malindi, Kenya, take a moment to rejoice. Malindi Rights Forum, also pictured on Page 1, is supporting their community as they stand up for their rights. *Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik*

**THIS PAGE:** Lake Elementaita in Western Kenya sits near the edge of the Mau Forest, where OPDP supported the indigenous Ogiek people to stop deforestation and protect their ancestral home. *Photo by Christine Han*

**BACK COVER:** A midwife and her husband outside their home in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. She is part of a collective of midwives called CODECOT, which provides maternal care to indigenous women in northern Guatemala and advocates for better health services for the entire indigenous community. *Photo by Christine Han*



## AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE

45 West 36th Street  
New York, NY 10018

T: 212.792.2900 • 800.889.7146

E: [ajws@ajws.org](mailto:ajws@ajws.org)

 [ajws.org](http://ajws.org)

 [/americanjewishworldservice](https://www.facebook.com/americanjewishworldservice)

 [/ajws](https://twitter.com/ajws)

 [/americanjewishworldservice](https://www.instagram.com/americanjewishworldservice)

