



DISASTER RESPONSE

After Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti in 2016, AJWS has helped communities like this one rebuild and recover.
Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik



THE PROBLEM

When disasters strike developing countries, people are left reeling, devastated by the loss of friends and family and often displaced from their homes and the lives they knew. In the immediate aftermath, they struggle with limited access to the food, water and shelter that they need to survive.

Disasters also disrupt critical systems that people rely on, such as schools, medical care and government services. In developing countries, these systems might have been weak before the disaster struck—and the prospect of repairing the damage can seem insurmountable. And crises exacerbate the unfair treatment already experienced by people who are oppressed or silenced in their communities, like women, ethnic minorities, indigenous groups and LGBT people. They are often the last to receive aid and their unique needs often go unmet.

OUR SOLUTION

AJWS responds rapidly after disasters, reaching out to our partners on the ground and mobilizing financial support from our donors. We listen to local organizations and activists who know their communities well, ensuring that the right kinds of help will quickly reach those who need it most.

We fill critical gaps in aid by prioritizing survivors from the poorest or most vulnerable communities and addressing often-overlooked issues like discrimination by

aid agencies and violence in camps for displaced survivors. AJWS also responds to smaller disasters that don't make the U.S. news or elicit international aid responses. These floods, mudslides and typhoons are devastating—and the aid we provide is often the only support survivors receive.

Most importantly, we stay the course—investing in long-term efforts to create lasting change as communities recover, rebuild and grow more resilient against future threats.

A HISTORY OF EMERGENCY RELIEF

1998	Hurricane Mitch in Central America	\$545,000
2004	Darfur Genocide	\$9.5 million
2004	Indian Ocean Tsunami	\$12 million
2010	Haiti Earthquake	\$6.5 million
2013	Philippines Typhoon	\$1.1 million
2014	Ebola Epidemic in Liberia	\$1.2 million
2015	Nepal Earthquake	\$3 million
2016	Hurricane Matthew in the Caribbean	\$666,000
2017	East Africa Hunger Crisis	Launching now
Since 1985	Total Global Humanitarian Responses	\$44 million*

**Figure includes other relief not listed in table*

CRISIS RESPONSE IN ACTION AROUND THE WORLD

HURRICANE MATTHEW IN THE CARIBBEAN

Haiti was still recovering from a devastating 2010 earthquake when Hurricane Matthew struck in the fall of 2016. The storm caused wide-scale destruction of coastal villages, displaced more than 175,000 people, destroyed farms and fueled a deadly cholera outbreak. AJWS responded immediately, and as of early 2017 has supported 15 organizations helping vulnerable communities rebuild damaged homes and infrastructure, manage the spread of cholera, revitalize damaged farms and recover from their profound trauma.

FLOODING IN SRI LANKA

During a dangerous monsoon season in 2016, floods and landslides swept away the homes of hundreds of thousands of Sri Lankans. With support from AJWS, a local grassroots organization built shelters for 720 internally displaced families and made weekly food deliveries to families living in 36 camps so they would have adequate nourishment throughout the rainy season.

EARTHQUAKES IN NEPAL

In the spring of 2015, two massive earthquakes struck Nepal, decimating entire villages and leaving 8,940 people dead, 22,239 injured and 188,900 displaced. AJWS has supported 23 grassroots organizations helping survivors who were neglected by international relief efforts, like Dalits, Nepal's "untouchable" class. For example, when a community of Dalits was found 10 months later still living under the open sky, AJWS grantee ADWAN distributed roofing material to 139 families rebuilding their homes, and provided wash stations, replaced or fixed toilets, and taught community members to build safe, smokeless stoves.

AJWS grantees have also worked to quell the rising domestic violence that emerged after the earthquakes—by providing free counseling services, running mobile legal clinics and safe houses, raising awareness about violence, and working with government officials and police to better handle abuse cases.

Inspired by the Jewish commitment to justice, American Jewish World Service (AJWS) works to realize human rights and end poverty in the developing world.



Mohammed K. Samah with his daughter Watta, age 11, survived the Ebola epidemic in Banjor, Liberia. After Mohammed lost his wife to the Ebola virus, they received support from AJWS grantee NICOL. Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik

EBOLA IN LIBERIA

AJWS had been working in Liberia for more than a decade when Ebola ravaged the country in 2014. Our grantees turned to us for help in their most pressing need: to dispel fear and misinformation so people could learn how to protect themselves. AJWS sent more than \$1 million to help dozens of organizations staunch the transmission of the virus through public health campaigns and sanitization supplies. They also counseled survivors who were ostracized and barred from communal life after their near-fatal ordeals—and educated communities to overcome their stigma and fear.

Two groups mistakenly blamed for causing the virus were LGBT people and AIDS patients—which meant that many of the severely ill among them were afraid to leave their houses to seek medical care. One AJWS grantee worked to ensure that people living with HIV could not only access Ebola treatment, but could continue with their much-needed antiretroviral therapy.

EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI

After a 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated Haiti in 2010, AJWS distributed over \$6 million to 66 groups leading local response efforts. The funds have supported vulnerable people—like women, LGBT communities and the rural poor—in the hardest-hit areas.

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