



AJWS EBOLA RESPONSE: ON THE GROUND IN LIBERIA

RESPONDING TO THE CALL FOR HELP

AJWS has been working in Liberia for more than a decade, and when the outbreak began, our grantees turned to us for help. They told us that the most pressing need in their communities is to address the fear and misinformation about Ebola—to quell the panic and to teach people about how to protect themselves. These local activist groups were well positioned to take this work on, because they were already well-established and trusted members of their communities.

AJWS donors have responded generously to this call, contributing more than \$1 million, so far, to help us fund these life-saving efforts.

CONTAINING EBOLA TO SAVE LIVES

Since August, AJWS has sent emergency aid to 10 community-based organizations in Liberia and one in Senegal that are working to contain the Ebola outbreak.

With these funds, our grantees are:

- Leading public health campaigns that rely on existing networks of trusted community leaders to spread the word about preventing infection and seeking appropriate medical care. This is a critical response at a time when communities have deep mistrust in the Liberian healthcare system.
- Going door-to-door to educate communities about the virus and teach people how to sanitize their homes and distribute essential sanitation materials
- Training religious leaders, women's groups and media organizations—including community radio stations—to educate Liberians in their own languages
- Providing psychosocial support to communities and families affected by Ebola and working to stop stigma and discrimination, which can fuel the spread of the disease and make it difficult for non-infectious Ebola survivors to resume their lives
- Collaborating with Liberia's County Health Teams and Ebola Task Forces to ensure a coordinated response to the epidemic



AJWS grantees in Liberia are promoting safe hygiene practices and distributing gloves, masks and chlorine to stop the spread of Ebola.
PHOTO KIERAN KESNER

AJWS GRANTEES IN ACTION

Here are a few examples of how our grantees are working to stop the spread of Ebola in Liberia:

- The Gbwee Peace Foundation Africa is engaging community-based organizations and rural media organizations to carry out a public education campaign to stop the spread of Ebola.
- The Development Education Network-Liberia is educating 11,000 households in Bong County about Ebola, targeting women and organizing other community-based groups to conduct their own outreach.

continued

- Committee for Peace and Development Advocacy is engaging tribal and religious leaders in Nimba County, and training and equipping staff and volunteers to conduct a door-to-door campaign targeting 6,000 people. It is also providing psychosocial support and counseling to survivors of Ebola and their families.
- Imani House International is renovating part of its clinic to be able to act as an Ebola quarantine and triage center, and is continuing to provide primary care services since the collapse of the local health care systems outside Monrovia.

“Ebola is not something you can just contain with hospital-based measures alone. Getting the message out into the community and getting people to change their behavior is critical if we are to bring the current outbreak under control.”

—PETER PIOT, DIRECTOR OF THE LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE & TROPICAL MEDICINE

STAYING THE COURSE: AJWS’S DISASTER RESPONSE PHILOSOPHY

When disasters like this strike—from earthquakes to genocides to epidemics—AJWS provides immediate humanitarian relief and stays the course with long-term support in order to build more just and equitable societies.

Even after the Ebola crisis is over, we will continue to support the efforts of our grantees to help communities recover from the epidemic and to address the serious injustices they faced before it began.

Since the 2003 we have invested more than \$1.7 million in grants to 21 local organizations working to advance human rights in Liberia to help the country move from ending its civil war to building permanent democratic institutions and an equitable society. Now, we are striving to ensure that the gains they have made are protected and that they have the resources to continue their work and continue to pursue a more just future for all Liberians.



AJWS grantee Grassroots Agency for Social Services (GRASS) is helping communities fight Ebola in Grand Bassa County, Liberia.
PHOTO COURTESY OF GRASSROOTS AGENCY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

HELP AJWS FIGHT EBOLA

Donate to the AJWS Emergency Response Fund to help AJWS’s grantees in Liberia save lives.

American Jewish World Service
45 West 36th Street
New York, NY 10018

t: 212.792.2900
800.889.7146
f: 212.792.2930

ajws.org · ajws@ajws.org
facebook.com/americanjewishworldservice
twitter.com/ajws