


A close-up portrait of a smiling woman with dark skin, wearing a colorful patterned headwrap and a beaded necklace. She is wearing a white top with a sunburst pattern and a dark shawl with a colorful border. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE

*Pursuing global justice through
grassroots change*

The logo consists of two overlapping circles, one orange and one teal, forming a partial ring around the text.

AMERICAN
JEWISH
WORLD
SERVICE

A photograph of a woman with short, reddish-brown hair, wearing a blue denim tank top with leopard print accents, holding a young child. They are standing in front of a red brick wall. In the background, there are other people and buildings in a slum area. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image, framed by a teal border with a white polka-dot pattern.

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

A woman and her child in a slum of Kampala, Uganda, where AJWS grantee Crested Crane Lighters provides HIV prevention education. *Photograph by Evan Abramson.*

DEAR FRIENDS:

In a world where suffering and injustice plague millions of people, AJWS is proud to be part of the solution. We are making an impact in countless ways and on numerous lives: We have invested more than \$300 million to support visionary organizations and leaders who are working to end poverty and injustice in the developing world. We have responded to some of the worst natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies of our time. And in the U.S., our staff and our supporters are passionately campaigning for our government to do more to promote human rights and save lives.

The need for action is more critical than ever. We are at a unique moment in human history when we can witness injustice at the click of a button—and we have the power as individuals and as a community to do something about it. Our grantees overseas and our supporters here in the U.S. are raising their voices to promote human rights, and together, they are making a difference.

It gives us great pride to be doing this work as Jews.

American Jewish World Service is the largest Jewish global justice organization worldwide. As we strive to overcome oppression in the developing world and fight for the rights of others, we gain inspiration from traditional teachings on helping the poor and the stranger and from generations of Jewish social justice activists who have come before us. For many American Jews, building a better world is the essence of what it means to be Jewish. Here at AJWS, helping people realize that dream is the essence of our mission.

We hope you'll join us in building a more just and equitable world.

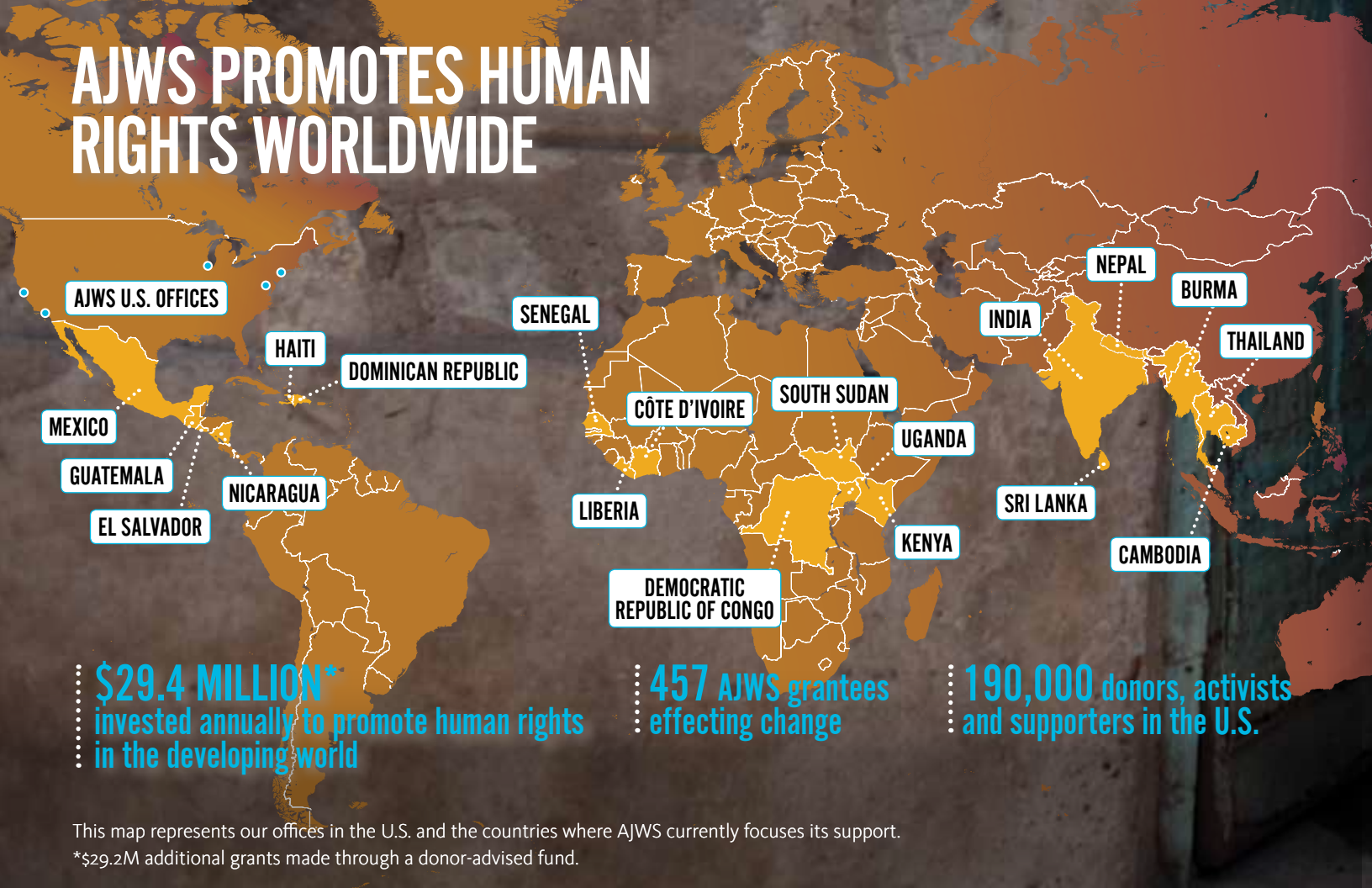


Robert Bank
President and CEO



Monte Dube
Chair

AJWS PROMOTES HUMAN RIGHTS WORLDWIDE



AJWS U.S. OFFICES

HAITI

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

SENEGAL

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

SOUTH SUDAN

UGANDA

INDIA

NEPAL

BURMA

THAILAND

MEXICO

GUATEMALA

NICARAGUA

EL SALVADOR

LIBERIA

DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF CONGO

KENYA

SRI LANKA

CAMBODIA

\$29.4 MILLION*
invested annually to promote human rights
in the developing world

457 AJWS grantees
effecting change

190,000 donors, activists
and supporters in the U.S.

This map represents our offices in the U.S. and the countries where AJWS currently focuses its support.
*\$29.2M additional grants made through a donor-advised fund.

IMPACT ON ISSUES THAT MATTER

Sexual Health and Rights

We support 160 organizations empowering women, girls and LGBT people to stop violence and discrimination and live with dignity, safety and health.

Civil and Political Rights

We aid 132 communities to fight for civil and political rights around the globe—promoting justice under the law for all and the right to be heard, vote and participate in political life.

Land, Water and Climate Justice

We support 143 grassroots groups slowing climate change and protecting the land, water and natural resources that rural and indigenous people depend on for survival.

Disaster and Humanitarian Response

We support 22 organizations that save lives and build more equitable societies in the wake of earthquakes, hurricanes and epidemics.

DIGNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL PEOPLE

AJWS grant spending by populations served



OUR IMPACT: CHANGING LIVES IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Since its founding, AJWS has granted over \$300 million to more than 1,000 social change organizations in the developing world.

Locally, our grassroots grantees in Africa, Asia and the Americas are working to bring about their communities' own visions for social change. They are empowering women, girls and LGBT people; stopping violence, prejudice and discrimination; and enabling rural and indigenous people to protect the land and resources that they depend on for survival.

Globally, AJWS funds larger regional, national and international social justice organizations that support and amplify the work of our grassroots grantees and can use their influence to change the world on a broader scale.



A beneficiary of AJWS grantee Colorful Girls, which helps girls in Burma gain leadership skills and stay in school. *Photograph by David Rotbard*

Together, our grantees and supporters are

INSPIRING ACTIVISM HERE AT HOME

AJWS is the Jewish voice for global justice.

Across the U.S. and on Capitol Hill, we mobilize the American Jewish community and its allies to advocate for laws and policies that promote human rights in the developing world. We also inspire Jewish and political leaders to become informed and passionate advocates for global justice.

AJWS has contributed to key advances in bringing peace to Sudan, relieving the debts of developing nations, and improving legislation for HIV and AIDS. In 2014, our *Reverse Hunger* campaign helped secure up to \$400 million in additional U.S. international



Nearly 150 AJWS supporters advocated for women's rights in Washington, D.C. at the AJWS Policy Summit in May 2014. **Photograph by Jeff Zorabedian**

food aid funding to reach half a million more people. In 2015, our *We Believe* campaign helped achieve the appointment of the first U.S. special envoy for international LGBT rights.

Today, AJWS stands up for persecuted minorities and advocates for the U.S. government to respect and advance human rights and justice in its foreign policy.

**fighting poverty and oppression, changing unjust laws and policies and
BUILDING STRONG SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENTS WORLDWIDE.**

STORIES OF CHANGE: **INSPIRATIONAL INDIVIDUALS** **OVERCOMING INJUSTICE**

Rehana Adib, an Indian woman, turned a childhood of oppression into a life dedicated to transforming the lives of others.

At age 12, she was raped by a group of older relatives. She bravely told her father, but he responded by arranging for her to marry a middle-aged man—a match designed to protect her security and reputation. Like many other girls her age, she was forced to drop out of school and was expected to be a subservient wife and mother. She was not free to make choices about her daily life and her own future.

But Rehana refused to be silent. She found a women's organization in her neighborhood and began to learn about her rights. She took workshops in leadership and activism and gained the courage to speak out about her experiences. By the time Rehana was 18, she was an active member of the local women's movement and was

already helping other girls overcome the challenges they faced. Although her family and community criticized her work at first, she slowly gained their respect and is now looked to as a leader in her community.

In 2005, Rehana founded her own organization, Astitva, in Muzzafarnagar—a rural area in Uttar Pradesh, India. With AJWS's support, Astitva works today to stop both sexual violence and child marriage, helping give girls a chance at a brighter future.

NEAR RIGHT Ikal Angelei.

Photograph courtesy of the Goldman Environmental Prize

FAR RIGHT Lake Turkana, where AJWS grantee Friends of Lake Turkana works to protect the lake from a destructive dam project.

Photograph by Evan Abramson



Ikal Angelei, a young Kenyan activist, took action when the construction of a major hydroelectric dam threatened her village and the lives of thousands of people. The Gibe III Dam would block water to Lake Turkana, an enormous lake that is the lifeblood of the desert region.

In 2008, Ikal founded an organization called Friends of Lake Turkana (FoLT). With AJWS's support, FoLT and local villagers began to build a protest movement against the dam. In 2011, their advocacy gained international attention and caused several major backers of the project to pull their support, bringing construction to a halt and putting the project's future in question.

Thanks to Ikal's initiative and her community's dedication, the people of Lake Turkana continue to survive on their land today. She has demonstrated that even a small, poor village has the power to defend its home and way of life.



Cecelia Danuweli has been to hell and back. As a girl during Liberia's brutal civil war, she witnessed her stepfather murdered before her eyes and faced the constant threat of rape and other violence as warring factions attacked her village. In 1990, she fled for her life and spent years living in the bush, hiding from the never-ending violence.

In 2002, she sought refuge in Liberia's capital, Monrovia, along with thousands of displaced people from around the country. Looking for assistance, she discovered West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), an AJWS grantee helping war refugees and working to bring peace to the country. Cecelia's life was transformed: WANEP's director, Leymah Gbowee, invited her to a workshop for women and then offered her a job. Cecilia became a visionary leader alongside Leymah, who went on to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011.

At WANEP, Cecilia no longer felt powerless. The organization was forging a grassroots women's peace movement to try to stop the war, and she became one of its leaders. She mobilized scores of women—mothers, sisters and grandmothers—to stage peaceful protests and sit-ins, which ultimately brought an end to the bloodshed.

“AJWS is different than other organizations. They have a heart and soul: the heart to reach out to the individuals they support; and the soul for ensuring the survival of the institutions and people they fund. They opened doors for us that were previously closed. AJWS made the difference for us.”

—LEYMAH GBOWEE, LIBERIAN ACTIVIST, NOBEL LAUREATE

FIGHTING EBOLA

When the 2014 Ebola epidemic started to claim lives in Liberia, Cecelia's organization went into action to help stop the virus. With funds donated by AJWS supporters, WANEP and more than a dozen other AJWS grantees went into their communities—in many cases, door-to-door—to give tens of thousands of people the education and sanitation tools they needed to protect themselves from Ebola. They helped dispel the rampant fear and misinformation that was fueling the outbreak, and were able to cross cultural and language barriers that had prevented the government and many foreign aid organizations from reaching the country's poorest and most remote residents.



Kakindo Orphans Care in Uganda organized this performance, which educates the community about oil drilling and land rights.

Photograph by Evan Abramson

“Jewish tradition teaches that if a person saves one life, it is as if they’ve saved the entire world. By that measure, over these past 30 years, [AJWS has] saved the world many, many times over.”

—PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA, 2015

OUR APPROACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS

AJWS strives to overcome the root causes of poverty and oppression by supporting grassroots organizations and social movements for justice in developing countries. In addition to addressing immediate needs like food, jobs and health care, our grantees advocate for people's essential rights—to live without violence, to have a say in the laws that govern society and to express one's religion, culture, sexual orientation or gender identity.

At the same time that our grantees are defending these human rights and building movements to bring about lasting change in their countries, our campaigns in the U.S. work to ensure that our government does all it can to ensure the rights of people worldwide.

We work this way because we believe that realizing human rights is the essential first step to creating just societies. When people are empowered to pursue their own destinies and have a voice in shaping solutions to the problems they face, they can overcome poverty, live with dignity and transform the lives of others.

All people are equally entitled to human rights, a concept that is central to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, which was adopted by the United Nations in response to the Holocaust. This modern tenet shares much in common with the Jewish belief that all human beings are created in the same image—infinitely valuable and deserving of respect.

“AJWS takes very seriously the idea that *tzedakah* is more ‘justice’ than ‘charity.’ AJWS is all about respect for the people it serves, and this is what development is all about.”

—MERYL FRANK, U.S. DIPLOMAT



“ It is not necessary for you to complete the work [of perfecting the world], but neither are you free to desist from it. ”

—ETHICS OF OUR ANCESTORS

Elias Santiago Hernandez, president of Coordinadora de Pueblos Unidos por la Defensa del Agua, which protects farmers' rights to water in Mexico. *Photograph by Evan Abramson*

A woman, Monica Magambo, stands in a dry, grassy field. She is wearing a black top, a patterned jacket, and a colorful floral skirt. In the background, several goats are grazing. The image is part of a larger graphic with a teal sidebar on the left and a teal text box on the right.


OUR WORLD, OUR RESPONSIBILITY

In Uganda, Monica Magambo nearly doubled her herd of goats after AJWS grantee Kwataniza Women Farmers Group gave her training on the best ways to care for livestock and grow crops. *Photograph by Evan Abramson*

AJWS believes that *tikkun olam*—repairing the world—is our responsibility, both as Jews and as global citizens. Our Jewish obligation to help the oppressed stems from biblical commandments to care for the poor and the stranger. It is also grounded in our collective Jewish memory of persecution and otherness. Together, this tradition, history and identity compel us to support and empower people suffering from injustice around the world.

Our responsibility to pursue justice is heightened in today's global world. We live at a time of unprecedented interconnectivity, when modern technology has expanded our universe and enabled us to bear daily witness to the suffering and atrocities occurring in far-away places. This also gives us the power to respond—to contribute our resources and raise our voices to advocate for justice. If we all heed this call to action, we can make progress toward building a more just and equitable world.

Working together, we can bring about change.



“I feel grateful, as a Jew, for the work that AJWS does in struggling nations, and I feel pride in the fact that its mission is being carried out in fulfillment of our tradition and in the name of the Jewish people.”

—LETTY COTTIN POGREBIN, AUTHOR, ACTIVIST AND CO-FOUNDER OF *MS. MAGAZINE*

“AJWS makes me
proud to be Jewish.”

—SALLY HOFFMAN, SUPPORTER,
AJWS NEW YORK LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

“I want to give to non-Jews in need, but I want to do it through the Jewish community, using Jewish values. I’m helping to eradicate poverty, but I’m doing it as a Jew. In that sense, AJWS is the best bang for my buck.”

—SALLY GOTTESMAN, AJWS BOARD ALUMNA



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Changing the World Starts with You!

JOIN US.

DONATE: Support our work to end poverty and promote human rights. www.ajws.org/donate

TAKE ACTION: Join our campaigns for global justice. www.ajws.org/takeaction

TRAVEL: Experience human rights work firsthand by traveling to the developing world with AJWS and other supporters, leaders and activists. www.ajws.org/travel

CONNECT: 'Like' us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and sign up for our e-mail list to join our community of changemakers. www.ajws.org/community    

LEARN MORE: Learn about our issues and find out how you can make a difference. www.ajws.org

We're proud to be an organization you can trust.

AJWS has received an "A" rating from the American Institute of Philanthropy since 2004 and a top rating of four stars from Charity Navigator for 15 years. AJWS also meets all 20 of Better Business Bureau's standards for charity accountability.

FRONT COVER A woman from Ogiek Peoples Development Program, an AJWS grantee that works to protect the culture and land of Kenya's indigenous Ogiek people. *Photograph by John Lang*