



IMPACT: RECENT SUCCESS STORIES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

AIDING SURVIVORS OF DISASTERS & EMERGENCIES

EAST AFRICA, 2017—AJWS is aiding communities on the brink of famine, many of whom are facing brutal violence and a massive refugee crisis that has swept through East Africa this year. Responding to what has been called the worst humanitarian disaster since 1945, AJWS is supporting nine organizations in South Sudan, Kenya and Uganda that are preventing malnutrition, providing clean water, aiding refugees, and promoting peace.

BURMA, 2017—Believing that “Never Again” means no genocide against anyone, anywhere ever again, AJWS and its grantees are working to stop the annihilation of Burma’s Rohingya people. When the army burned hundreds of villages, indiscriminately massacred men, women, and children, and sent more than 600,000 people fleeing across the border in late 2017, AJWS intensified its long-term support in the region and began aiding refugees in Bangladesh. We also launched intensive advocacy efforts calling on the U.S. government and the international community to take immediate steps to stop the violence.



After Hurricane Matthew devastated their community in Haiti, these women—members of AJWS grantee SOFA—are helping their neighbors rebuild. *Photograph by Jonathan Torgovnik*

HAITI, 2016-2017—After Hurricane Matthew destroyed villages, displaced more than 175,000 people, decimated agriculture and fueled a deadly surge of cholera, AJWS raised nearly \$700,000 to help. As of early 2017, 15 Haitian organizations are using our support to rebuild damaged homes, infrastructure and farms; manage the spread of cholera; and respond to trauma.

SEEKING JUSTICE

EL SALVADOR, 2016—After a transgender man was viciously attacked by police officers, AJWS grantees **FESPAD** and **HT El Salvador** took the case to court, achieving a groundbreaking guilty verdict and four years in prison for the perpetrators. This was the first time Salvadoran police have ever been successfully prosecuted for abusing LGBT people, and it was a key victory in overcoming the culture of impunity for crimes against this persecuted community.

SRI LANKA, 2015—Communities across Sri Lanka are seeking justice for the loss of tens of thousands of civilians who were “disappeared” without a trace during the country’s civil war. After intense international pressure, in late 2015 the government allowed a U.N. team to investigate these crimes for the first time. AJWS’s grassroots grantees (anonymous to protect their security) helped hundreds of Sri Lankans prepare to testify about the atrocities they suffered.

HAITI, 2015-2016—After the corruption and electoral fraud that characterized Haiti’s 2015-2016 elections and has plagued the country for decades, AJWS grantees including **Réseau National de Défense des Droits Humains** led the most comprehensive, effective and robust effort in Haiti to date to contest fraud, verify votes, and demand a recount and later a repeat of the elections.

EMPOWERING WOMEN & GIRLS

INDIA, 2017—In August, the Supreme Court of India struck down “triple talaq,” a practice that had allowed Muslim men to divorce their wives by saying the word “talaq” (divorce) three times. This was a major victory for the Muslim women’s rights activists that AJWS supports in

the country—particularly Hasina Khan, a longtime AJWS grantee. Khan’s organization, **Bebaak Collective**, argued before the court that triple talaq was unconstitutional.



A collective of girls supported by AJWS works to end child marriage in their community. *Photograph by Jonathan Torgovnik*

INDIA, 2014-2017—Since AJWS launched a \$30 million investment to end child marriage in India, we have supported more than 50 organizations dedicated to addressing the root causes of this problem. About 30 of these grantees have organized collectives, where more than 125,000 women and girls are learning about their rights and working to foster gender equality in their communities.

CONGO, 2015—AJWS grantees are helping return law and accountability to Democratic Republic of Congo, where sexual violence has been wielded as a weapon of war for decades. In 2015, **Female Solidarity for Integrated Peace and Development** and **Dynamique des Femmes**

Juristes brought hundreds of cases to court and secured convictions for 214 survivors of rape and sexual violence—the kinds of crimes that for decades went unprosecuted. Also, **Réseau des Associations des Femmes Juristes de l’Est** helped elect 73 women to public office.

PROTECTING LAND & THE ENVIRONMENT

EL SALVADOR, 2017—A coalition supported by AJWS achieved a nationwide ban of metallic mining. After mining companies leached cyanide and iron into the water supply, poisoning it, the number of cases of cancer spiked. Twelve grassroots organizations funded by AJWS organized tens of thousands of local people over 11 years to pressure the government to intervene. Thanks to their advocacy, El Salvador became the first country ever to ban metallic mining nationwide.

KENYA, 2017—With AJWS’s support, Kenya’s indigenous Ogiek community won a landmark court case to stop the government from evicting this forest-dwelling group from their land to make way for logging. The court ruled in the people’s favor—mandating reparations and setting an important legal precedent for indigenous communities across the entire continent.

GUATEMALA, 2015—In October 2015, the Guatemalan government paid the first reparations of the \$20 million it promised to grieving relatives of indigenous Maya Achi civilians who were brutally massacred by the Guatemalan military in 1982. The military killed hundreds of civilians to make way for the Chixoy hydroelectric dam. After decades of tireless advocacy and organizing by AJWS grantees like **RedLAR (the Latin American Network Against Dams and for Rivers, Communities and Life)**, the government finally agreed to take responsibility.

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OUR MISSION

Inspired by the Jewish commitment to justice, **American Jewish World Service (AJWS)** works to realize human rights and end poverty in the developing world. AJWS promotes civil and political rights, advances sexual health and rights, defends land, water and climate justice, and aids communities in the aftermath of disasters. We pursue lasting change by supporting grassroots and global human rights organizations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and by advocating for U.S. and international policies for justice and equality worldwide.



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