



DISASTER AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



When a massive tsunami hit the coast of Sulawesi, Indonesia, in 2018, AJWS immediately supported partners distributing relief packages and empowering women to lead recovery efforts. *Photo by Fauzy Chaniago*

THE PROBLEM

When disasters strike the countries we serve, 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. 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 LGBTQI 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

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
2017	East Africa Hunger Crisis	\$599,000
2018	Indonesia Disaster Response	\$309,000
2017-2019	Emergency Rohingya Fund	\$692,000
2020-Present	COVID-19 Response	Ongoing
Since 1985	Total Global Humanitarian Responses	\$46 MILLION*

**Figure includes other relief not listed in table*

CRISIS RESPONSE IN ACTION AROUND THE WORLD

GENOCIDE IN BURMA

Burma has a long history of persecuting ethnic minorities, but in 2017 that systematic oppression expanded into a brutal campaign against the Rohingya people. The Burmese military murdered Rohingya men, women and children indiscriminately and burned entire villages, forcing over 700,000 people to flee on foot or by boat to refugee camps in Bangladesh, where they remain today. AJWS responded immediately with life-saving humanitarian aid, including food and water.

TSUNAMIS IN INDONESIA

Throughout late 2018, Indonesia suffered multiple catastrophic tsunamis, leaving nearly 200,000 people displaced, their homes damaged or entirely swept away. In September, a 7.5 magnitude earthquake sent a tsunami hurtling towards the coast of Sulawesi, killing over 4,000 people—many of whom were never found. Only three months later, another tsunami in central Indonesia left a path of destruction across Java and Sumatra. AJWS immediately identified local partners to distribute relief packages for mothers, reconstruct resilient new homes, empower youth and women's groups to lead recovery efforts and more.



In Uganda, the staff of AJWS grantee HRAPF celebrate a successful fight for justice outside a local courthouse to free LGBTQI+ youth who were imprisoned and falsely charged with spreading COVID-19.

Photo credit: HRAPF

DROUGHT AND FAMINE IN EAST AFRICA

In 2016, the short rainy seasons that are critical to food production and water supplies in East Africa never arrived, plunging the region further into a multi-year drought that pushed millions of people to the brink of starvation. The crisis was exacerbated by the harsh effects of climate change and ongoing, violent conflict in South Sudan. AJWS responded by supporting partners in South Sudan, Kenya and Uganda helping communities survive and heal by accessing food and identifying clean water, providing psychosocial support for refugees and establishing coexistence projects.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

COVID-19 has struck a devastating blow in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. The pandemic has posed an existential threat to all the vulnerable communities AJWS serves—and it has magnified inequality between rich and poor, fueled flare-ups of bigotry, increased sexual violence, and exacerbated the unchecked rise of authoritarianism. AJWS mobilized swiftly and nimbly to provide our grantees with the resources to slow the spread of COVID in their communities, reduce hardships caused by the pandemic, and defend human rights under fire.

For example: In Haiti, an organization of independent journalists—AyiboPost—reached over 600,000 people with videos and articles teaching communities how to prevent infection. In Senegal, AJWS grantee Association des Juristes Sénégalaises is providing psychosocial support to women suffering from domestic violence linked to the pandemic. And in Uganda, after 23 homeless LGBTQI+ youth were violently imprisoned and falsely charged with spreading COVID-19, AJWS grantee HRAPF mobilized emergency legal support and secured their freedom.

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