



AMERICAN
JEWISH
WORLD
SERVICE

MOMENTUM

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



“Since 1985, AJWS has been making a difference across the globe.”

—U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JAN SCHAKOWSKY

EARTH DANCE Ugandan women use traditional dance and song to educate their communities about protecting the land they've lived on for generations.
Photo by Christine Han

MOMENTUM

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



MOTHER

**GIVE ME THE MOST
POWERFUL WEAPON
OF EDUCATION**

**LET'S
GO TO SCHOOL**



Letter from our Leadership **5**

Year in Review: 2018 by the Numbers **6**

Building Momentum Around the World **18**

on Rohingya Rights **20**

on Peace **22**

on Gender Equality **24**

on LGBTI Rights **28**

on Halting Mining **30**

on Legal Justice **32**

on Democracy **34**

on Capitol Hill **36**

Meeting the Highest Standards of Philanthropic Integrity **38**

2018 Financial Statements **40**

Our Supporters **42**

Our Team **52**

GIRL POWER In Uganda, women and girls rally for their right to education with AJWS grantee Mentoring and Empowerment Programme for Young Women (MEMPROW). *Photo by Christine Han*



MOMENTUM FOR WOMEN In an impressive public show of solidarity on International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, AJWS grantees in Nicaragua helped mobilize thousands of women to take to the streets to demand justice, equality and an end to rampant violence in the country. *Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik*

DEAR FRIENDS:

You are our partners in repairing the world—*tikkun olam*—and this immense task is more important now than ever. Attacks on democracy and human rights are multiplying around the world and within our own country. Assaults on women, LGBTI people, and religious and ethnic minorities are proliferating. Temperatures are warming, causing ever more catastrophic storms and droughts, and deepening poverty among the most vulnerable.

But even at this challenging—and often devastating—moment in history, we’ve made progress. Together, with Jews of diverse backgrounds and with people of other races, faiths, nationalities and identities, we are steadily building the world we want to live in—a world rooted in respect for the dignity of all people.

We tally up our progress every day. We measure it in lives saved, laws changed, and hearts and minds turned toward justice. We measure progress in the powerful movements that we are helping to build around the world: movements for women’s rights, movements to slow the effects of climate change, and movements to replace persecution and violence with democracy and peace. We measure progress in the increasingly large swells of humanity rising up to claim their rights and dignity as human beings and citizens of this planet.

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

—FORMER PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

We are gaining momentum.

In contemporary Jewish tradition, the idea of *tikkun olam* is all about building momentum. Through individual and communal acts of *tzedakah* (giving for justice) and *chesed* (acts of loving-kindness), we are progressively fusing the broken pieces of our world together, generating change. This image perfectly captures the life’s work of the activists AJWS supports in 19 countries. They are coming together by the hundreds, thousands, and tens of thousands—each doing their part to fight the brokenness in their midst. Gaining strength in numbers, they are fighting poverty, speaking truth to power, and changing the course of their communities and their nations.

By supporting this work through your *tzedakah* and your action, you are building momentum with us.

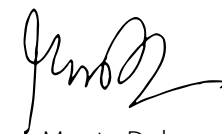
When we act on our deepest values together, when we refuse to be discouraged by the headlines or the setbacks, when we use the lessons of the darkest chapters of Jewish history to propel us to stand up for others—we are building a better world.

Thank you for your support of AJWS in 2018 and beyond.

With warm regards,



Robert Bank
President and CEO



Monte Dube
Chair of the Board of Trustees

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2018 BY THE NUMBERS

"I trust AJWS, without hesitation, to make the smartest investments in advancing human rights in the developing world. Being part of AJWS makes me feel optimistic that there's a chance for justice—for a better world that is being built by doing the hard work."

—**MARCELLA KANFER ROLNICK**
Executive Chair of GOJO

Chair and Founding Director of Lippman
Kanfer Foundation for Living Torah
Board Member of AJWS (2008-2018)





INVESTING IN THE FUTURE In Hyderabad, India, staff at AJWS grantee Shaheen (pictured) train adolescent girls from low-income Muslim communities to pursue jobs and careers that will radically expand their opportunities.
Photo by Christine Han

JEWISH GIVING

MULTIPLIED for GLOBAL GOOD

Through AJWS, your *tzedakah* builds momentum

In 2018...

85.4¢ of every dollar
went to our programs to build
a better world.

JOINING HANDS FOR JUSTICE AJWS grantee INEND is building a community of allies to support Kenya's LGBTI community—reducing hatred, stigma and violence.
Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik

..... for powerful movements for justice.



\$30 million*

invested to advance human rights and end poverty in developing countries.

\$390 million

granted cumulatively to thousands of social change organizations since our founding in 1985.

**\$15.3 million in additional grants were made through a donor-advised fund to organizations promoting human rights globally*

COMMUNITY ACTION In Kenya, Trevenia Mwamburi (left) organizes women in her community to launch new income-generating businesses and protect land that has been threatened by the local salt mining industry. *Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik*

453 GRANTEES IN 19 COUNTRIES MULTIPLYING HOPE



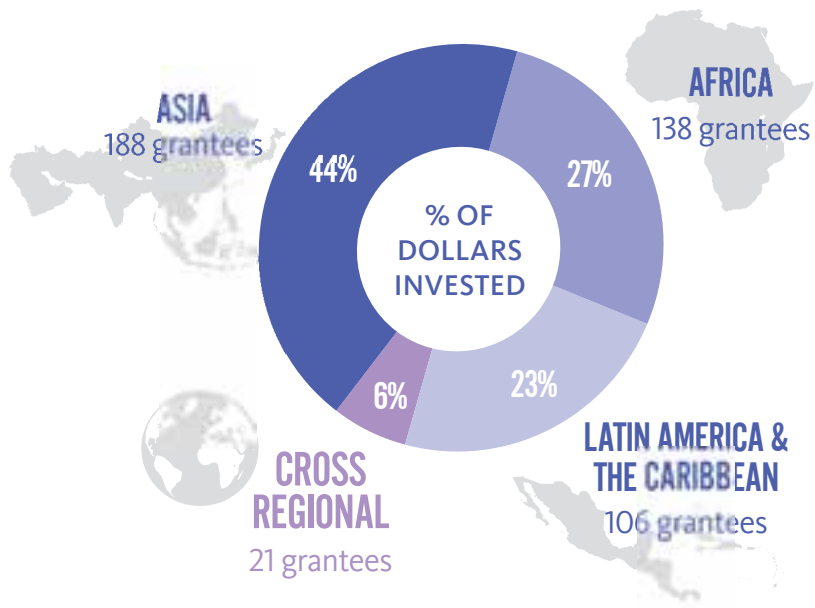
In 2018, AJWS supported **453 grantees** in **19 countries**. They give us hope.

From India to Haiti, and Kenya to Cambodia, these remarkable organizations and their courageous communities are defending human rights and fighting poverty around the world.

Locally, our grassroots grantees are making their communities' own visions for social change a reality. In homes and villages, rural farms and busy urban neighborhoods, they ensure that the world's most vulnerable people can defend their rights and live with dignity.

Nationally and globally, AJWS funds larger social justice organizations that have a wider sphere of influence. Taking to the courts and the halls of power, they are winning landmark cases and shaping national and international legislation.

Together, they are affecting millions of lives.



“We have to choose hope, even when it’s extremely hard, and that’s a very Jewish idea.”

—RABBI LAUREN GRABELLE HERRMANN,
Society for the Advancement of Judaism
AJWS Global Justice Fellow, 2016-2017



VOICES IN THE STREETS Nicaraguan women marching for gender equality.
Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik

RECYCLING FOR PEACE After decades of civil war in Senegal's Casamance region, AJWS grantees are working tirelessly to promote peace and help people rebuild their damaged homes and lives. Here, plastic bottles become a new house and a fresh start.

Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik

REPAIRING THE WORLD ISSUE BY ISSUE



AJWS met the challenges of 2018 by focusing deeply on **four key issues**.

These issues cut to the heart of what we care about most, as Jews and as global citizens seeking a better future for our planet and some of its most vulnerable people.



35%

SEXUAL HEALTH & RIGHTS

As the #MeToo movement swept the world, we supported **155 organizations** empowering women, girls and LGBTI people to promote equality, stop violence and discrimination, and live with dignity, safety and health.



32%

LAND, WATER & CLIMATE JUSTICE

In a year when global warming claimed lives through crippling droughts and violent storms, we supported **147 organizations** fighting climate change and protecting the land, water and natural resources that rural and indigenous people depend on for survival.



29%

CIVIL & POLITICAL RIGHTS

In the face of the shocking rise of authoritarianism, both at home and abroad, we supported **131 organizations** building democracy, promoting justice under the law for all, and defending the right to be heard, vote and participate in political life.



4%

DISASTER & HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

When disasters and humanitarian crises struck people around the world—including a horrific campaign of genocide in Burma—we supported **20 organizations** that saved lives and helped people recover and rebuild.



REVIVAL On El Salvador's coast, where rising seas have wiped out many mangrove forests, Marta Linares-Avila plants candelillas—seedlings. Unidad Ecológica Salvadoreña (UNES) helps her community revive this habitat for fishing, income and protection from erosion. *Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik*

CONFRONTING RISING INJUSTICE TOGETHER



One person can change lives. **Many can change the world.**

In a year of grave challenges, we were able to make progress because we multiplied the power of local people. Imagine our 453 grantees—each working to fight poverty and human rights abuse in their communities and countries. Each of these organizations mobilizes hundreds, thousands and even tens of thousands of people whose lives depend on bringing change. Now imagine them working side-by-side, country by country, all pursuing justice. **That is a lot of collective power.**

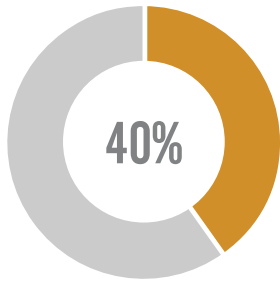
AJWS works to strengthen and amplify this power.

We fund constellations of organizations that are working on the same issues—both within countries and across borders. Our AJWS experts in each country work closely with our grantees to help them build skills and grow. We then bring like-minded groups together so they can collaborate, learn from one another, and launch ambitious collective campaigns—movements—for justice. For example, activists supported by AJWS in El Salvador stopped toxic mining in their country, and are now helping activists in Haiti build their own movement in the hope of doing the same.

This is how social change happens. While the world faced a rising tide of injustice and suffering this year, we fought back by building a powerful swell of momentum for human rights. In 2018, hundreds of thousands of people in the AJWS community worldwide rose up to change hearts, minds and laws to respect human rights. Together, we're changing the lives of millions.

“AJWS’s work means going beyond politics, and barriers, and borders, and language, and really understanding, ‘who is this person, and how do we support them?’”

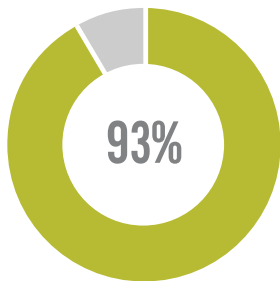
—RACHEL SUMEKH,
AJWS Global Justice Fellow, 2013-2014



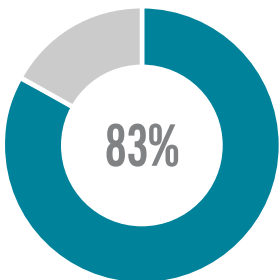
of our grantees are **new organizations** founded within 5 years of their first AJWS grant.



of our **24 in-country experts** provide our grantees with capacity-building support to develop their leadership, infrastructure, programs and more.



of our grantees **engage in advocacy** to advance laws and policies to promote human rights.



of our grantees are members of networks or coalitions that **work together to effect more change.**



WOMEN UNITED Tens of thousands of women across Nicaragua are coming together to call for safety, equality, and justice. *Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik*

TRANSFORMING LAWS AND LIVES WORLDWIDE

In recent years, AJWS grantees and the movements they're part of have helped shape dozens of laws, policies and precedent-setting court cases to protect human rights locally, regionally and nationally.



JUSTICE FINALLY SERVED FOR VICTIMS OF GUATEMALA'S FORCED DISAPPEARANCES

IMPACT: Hundreds of thousands of families yearning for justice

In May 2018, Guatemala's High Court convicted four former high-level military officers for horrific crimes they committed 37 years earlier, during Guatemala's armed conflict. Thanks to the support of AJWS grantee UDEFEGUA and others, the court sentenced them to decades in prison for the rape and torture of a 21-year-old political activist and the disappearance of her 14-year-old brother. This was the first time high-level officers have been convicted of any of the estimated 245,000 murders and disappearances from this devastating era.

[\(Full story, page 32\)](#)



SALVADORAN MINING BAN PROTECTS HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

IMPACT: 6.3 million Salvadorans

In 2017, a land rights movement supported by AJWS won a landmark case making El Salvador the first nation ever to ban metallic mining, which was poisoning the country's water supply. This was the result of a decade-long campaign mobilizing tens of thousands of people. In 2018, the Salvadoran activists helped forge a similar anti-mining movement in nearby Haiti.

[\(Full story, page 30\)](#)



KENYAN COURT FAVORS ENVIRONMENT OVER INDUSTRY

IMPACT: 4,600 villagers in 2018 and potentially millions across Kenya in the future

In April 2018, Kenya's High Court ruled that a multi-billion-dollar infrastructure project must reduce its environmental impact. The LAPSET Corridor project—a massive network of ports, railways, airports and refineries being built to process and export Kenya's oil and coal reserves—is damaging thousands of miles of communities' land and villages. Thanks to a case litigated by AJWS grantee Katiba Institute, the government now must pay more than \$17 million in damages to 4,600 local people whose lives and livelihoods were harmed by one of the LAPSET ports. They must also develop a plan to protect the environment and local culture threatened by the projects.



AFRICAN COURT SIDES WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

IMPACT: 35,000 Ogiek Kenyans

For decades, Kenya's indigenous Ogiek community has fought for its right to live in the Mau Forest, an endangered woodland that is now being plundered by the government and lumber companies. In 2017, the Ogiek community prevailed when the African Court of Human and People's Rights ordered the Kenyan government and developers to stop evicting indigenous people and to pay reparations for damages.



INDIAN COURT OVERTURNS OPPRESSIVE DIVORCE LAW

IMPACT: 90 million Muslim women in India

In 2017, an organization led by AJWS grantee Hasina Khan argued a case in India's Supreme Court that overturned "triple talaq"—a law that had authorized Muslim men to divorce their wives by merely saying, writing, or even texting the word talaq (divorce) three times. Thanks to this decision, women now have a say in this life-changing matter.



ANTI-GAY LAW OVERTURNED IN INDIA

IMPACT: All LGBTI Indians in a population of 1.3 billion

In September 2018, the Indian Supreme Court made history by striking down Section 377 of the Constitution, which made consensual sex between same-sex adults illegal. AJWS is proud to support so many of the organizations that have been leading the charge for equality in India, including several involved in the case. LGBTI Indians are now freer to be who they are and love whom they love—openly, safely and with pride.

Photo credits, numbered left to right: James Rodriguez (1), courtesy of Mesa Nacional Frente a la Minería (2), Jonathan Torgvnik (3, 4) Christine Han (5), and AP Images (6)

BUILDING MOMENTUM AROUND THE WORLD

EQUALITY FOR ALL Senegalese grantee Initiative Solidaire des Actions de Développement makes sure disabilities aren't barriers for rights. After this young man lost his leg to a landmine, the group is ensuring he can access medical care, attend school and vote in elections. *Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik*





MOMENTUM ON ROHINGYA RIGHTS

Aiding Rohingya refugees escaping genocide in Burma

The Rohingya people of Burma (Myanmar) have faced decades of abuse and violence at the hands of their own country's military. This persecuted ethnic minority has been stripped of their citizenship, driven from their land, and interned in camps. In August 2017, the violence escalated to ethnic cleansing, when the military began a vicious campaign of burning villages and murdering women, men and children en masse. In the aftermath, more than 700,000 Rohingya people have fled to Bangladesh—many on a weeks-long journey—carrying nothing but their children and a few belongings. Top UN officials say these atrocities bear the hallmarks of genocide.

The plight of the Rohingya people echoes the persecution and violence suffered by Jews throughout history, and AJWS is acting powerfully on our promise of “never again.”

Thanks to our generous donors, AJWS's grantees are working around the clock to help refugees in camps in Bangladesh meet basic needs for food, shelter and water; recover from their profound traumas; and weather the devastation wrought by the monsoon rains. We are also supporting Rohingya and other human rights activists in Burma and around the world in their efforts to end the persecution and achieve justice.

AJWS has issued a rallying cry for the Rohingya people—pushing the U.S. government to take action and orchestrating a unified Jewish response.

Together with our partners and allies, we launched the Jewish Rohingya Justice Network, a diverse coalition of leaders from across the Jewish community. We mobilized 72 American Jewish organizations



REFUGE When Rohingya refugees like these arrive in the Bangladeshi camps, AJWS's grantees provide much-needed food, shelter and trauma counseling.
Photo MM Rahman/Alamy Stock Photo



Photo by Christine Han

“Thanks to AJWS, we are able to highlight the situation of the Rohingya to the world. If we did not have the support of AJWS, we would not be able to do all this.”

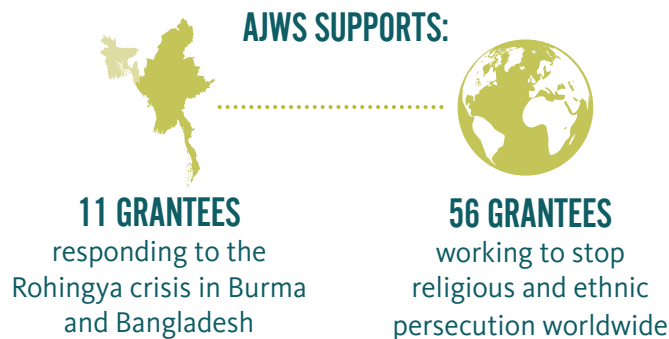
—TUN KHIN, Founder of AJWS grantee
Burmese Rohingya Organization—
United Kingdom

“The experience of joining AJWS in Washington to bring the plight of the Rohingya people to those in elected office is among the proudest moments in my 20 years as a rabbi. No one can honestly say now that the American Jewish community stood silent as our Rohingya brothers and sisters continued to bleed.”

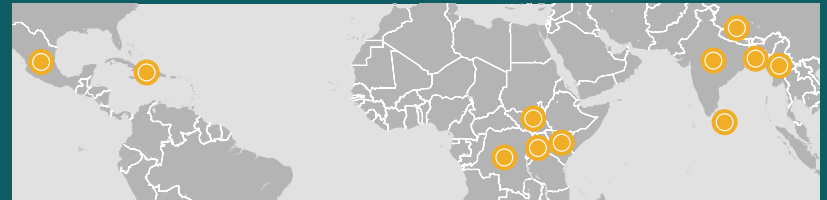
—RABBI DAVID WIRTSCHAFTER,
Temple Adath Israel, Lexington, KY

and 248 rabbis and communal leaders to petition the Senate to pass the Burma Human Rights and Freedom Act of 2018, a bill calling for immediate U.S. government intervention.

Thanks to this advocacy, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee advanced the bill to the full Senate in February 2018. The House followed suit with a similar bill in May, which passed with overwhelming support and included language that AJWS helped shape calling for increased humanitarian aid, U.S. sanctions against Burma and a mechanism for accountability for crimes against the Rohingya. Though this legislation is currently stalled in the Senate, the U.S. government acted on several of our key asks. In August, they sanctioned several Burmese military officials and denied them entry visas into the U.S. And in September, the administration increased humanitarian aid to the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.



DISASTER & HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE around the world in 2018



ROHINGYA CRISIS
Burma, Bangladesh

**FLOODING AND
LANDSLIDES**
Democratic Republic of
Congo, India, Sri Lanka

EAST AFRICA HUNGER CRISIS
South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda

HURRICANE MATTHEW
Haiti

EARTHQUAKES
Nepal, Mexico



RECOVERY Mariangline Jane stands by what is left of her home in Gommier, Haiti, after Hurricane Matthew devastated her village. AJWS grantee GRAMIR helped families like hers rebuild after the disaster. *Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik*

Planting the seeds for reconciliation in Senegal

In a garden in Casamance, Senegal, sprouts poke hopefully out of the soil. They are the simple beginnings of carrots, onions and radishes. But they represent so much more than food. The women who planted and nurtured them are recovering from years of fear and violence.

Casamance, the southwestern region of Senegal, has been ravaged by war for three decades. The long conflict between rebel groups and government forces killed thousands and forced more than 60,000 people to flee their homes. After a ceasefire in 2014, residents of Casamance are now returning to their abandoned land and ruined villages. Yet a deep distrust lingers between neighbors, borne of differing loyalties during the war.

To advance peace, an organization supported by AJWS called COPI has started planting “peace gardens”— plots of land where women from the community can grow vegetables together. As they sow and harvest, the women connect. And they begin to heal.

Awa Djiba is from the village of Janje in Casamance. During the war, she fled her home to bring her nine children to safety in the neighboring country, The Gambia. “We left because we feared for our lives,” she said. “The gunshots would go all night. We didn’t know if the rebels would kill us or not.”

When Awa returned five years later, she had to continue to live side-by-side with people who supported the rebels during the war. Thanks to the peace gardens, she and her neighbors have been able to begin to put aside their suspicions and fears. Their conversations over soil and seedlings nurture connection and understanding. And the



“Thanks to the peace garden, we are starting to mend the fabric of our community.”

—AWA DJIBA, survivor of the Casamance civil war

income they make selling their crops has improved life in the village, reducing some of the tensions that sparked war in the first place.

AJWS has supported the peace movement in Casamance since 2010, and the movement has grown stronger each year. We began by supporting a fledgling coalition called Plateforme des Femmes pour la Paix en Casamance (PFPC).

Today, the group represents 210 local civil society organizations and more than 40,000 women who have rallied, marched and advocated to ensure that the ceasefire holds and true peace will one day come to Casamance.



AJWS SUPPORTS:



13 GRANTEES
promoting peace
in Senegal



98 GRANTEES
helping communities
recover from violent
conflict worldwide

SEEDING PEACE Decades of fighting in Senegal's Casamance region have created rifts between communities. AJWS grantee COPI is bringing women together to plant in "peace gardens" so they can begin to trust one another again—and earn a living in the process. Opposite: Neighbors Awa Djiba (in green) and Mama Jamma (in blue). *Photos by Jonathan Torgovnik*

MOMENTUM ON GENDER EQUALITY

Expanding the life choices of women and adolescent girls in India

One afternoon when Sonali Khatun was only 14, she returned home from school in her small village of Sahanagar, India, to find rows of chairs set up in her family's mud house. She asked her mother what was going on, and the reply shocked her: "Your husband's family is coming to see you." Sonali panicked and protested, but her parents insisted that the stranger would be a good match. Just two weeks later, she was married.

Sonali—one of millions of girls worldwide who wed against their wishes before they turn 18—dropped out of school. She found herself under the thumb of unwelcoming in-laws and an abusive husband, and soon fled their house in terror. Fortunately, her parents stood by her as she obtained a divorce, despite the slurs hurled at her from the community. She fell into a suicidal depression until she discovered MBBCDS, an organization supported by AJWS that taught her she was not alone in her struggle. Today, she teaches other girls to stand up for themselves.

In India, as in so many places around the globe, women and girls have little control over their lives. But young women like Sonali are coming together to turn the tide. **AJWS is making a \$30 million investment in advancing gender equality and ending child marriage, with generous support from The Kendeda Fund.**



GIRLS EMPOWERED Married at 14, Sonali Khatun (in turquoise) found the strength to leave her husband and carve out her own path, thanks to the support of AJWS grantee MBBCDS. Opposite, adolescent girls talk about their bodies, health and equality at a resource center run by AJWS grantee The Hunger Project. *Photos by Jonathan Torgovnik*



AJWS SUPPORTS:



62 GRANTEES
empowering women
and girls in India

121 GRANTEES
advancing gender
equality worldwide

As of 2018, AJWS supports:

3,500 “COLLECTIVES”
(groups working together
for social change)

Reaching **126,000**
WOMEN and GIRLS



As of 2018, AJWS supports more than 60 grantees across India that are directly reaching more than 126,000 women and girls—causing a ripple effect that is changing the lives of countless more.

Our grantees tackle the root causes of child marriage and gender inequality: rigid social norms and beliefs that restrict girls’ aspirations, life choices and behavior. For example, they challenge the notions that fathers, husbands and sons should make decisions in families; and that girls’ education is not as important as boys’. Many of these grantees have started groups, called “collectives,” that provide safe space for girls to connect with peers, practice new skills and learn about their bodies and their rights. This process builds their confidence and, over time, empowers them to negotiate with their parents and others for what they want in life.

We’re already seeing more and more girls in these communities making their own choices about marriage, education and careers.

A recent external evaluation of our work in India found that girls and young women in collectives supported by AJWS have been gaining greater power in their personal lives—and influencing others in their families and communities. They’re sparking the social change that’s so critical to overcoming gender inequality. As they continue to build their collective power, these women and girls work together to demand political change too—aiming to shape new laws, policies and services that will have a far-reaching impact.

GIRLS CHOOSING THEIR OWN FUTURES



NEGOTIATING FOR EDUCATION

Rukhsar Javed Sayyed's mother was pressuring her to drop out of school and get married, like most other girls in her conservative neighborhood. But after taking English classes at Awaaz-e-Niswaan, Rukhsar felt more confident and sure that she wanted a career. The experience emboldened her to insist on completing college.



GAINING ECONOMIC FREEDOM

As a teenager, Khushi Prajapati faced the likely prospect of an unwanted marriage and a lifetime of poverty. But through Azad Foundation's "Women on Wheels" program, she learned to become a taxi driver, typically a job done by men. Khushi now supports her parents and siblings—and has earned the bargaining power to decide about marriage on her own terms. Recently, she achieved one of her biggest goals: to buy her family a house.



LEARNING ABOUT SEXUAL HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Through MASUM, Shital Waikar gained access to information about her body and sexuality that her mother—married at age 14—never got. This helped her dispel a common belief in India that a girl is "polluted" while she has her period—a belief that keeps many girls like Shital home from school, prohibits them from touching others' food, and causes great shame about menstruation. Today, Shital volunteers with MASUM to educate other youth about their reproductive health and foster positive body image.



LEARNING TO LEAD

At just 23 years old, Manju Kumari is a sarpanch, the elected head of her small rural village. Manju wanted support in pushing for policies that will promote gender equality in her community, so she began to train with an organization called The Hunger Project, which helps build the leadership skills of young women. With help through this coaching, she has launched new public services to meet the needs of adolescent girls—including a center where they can meet, study and play sports.

“Now Shital is able to make her own decisions ... This was unthinkable for my generation.”

—MANGAL WAIKAR, mother of Shital Waikar, volunteer at AJWS grantee MASUM

THREE GENERATIONS FOR CHANGE Shital Waikar, far right, with her mother and grandmother—both of whom married not long after reaching puberty. They are proud that Shital is going to college and now has options beyond child marriage. She learned about her rights at MASUM, an AJWS grantee in Maharashtra, India. *Photos by Jonathan Torgovnik*

MOMENTUM ON LGBTI RIGHTS

Transforming assailants into allies in Kenya

In 2010, as rumors of a same-sex wedding swirled in the conservative coastal city of Mombasa, Kenya, angry Muslim and Christian religious leaders mobilized locals to “flush out the gays.” The call was heeded by many local boda boda (motorbike taxi) drivers—a group with a reputation for violence that is frequently called upon by politicians and religious leaders to carry out their dirty work.

Armed with sticks, stones and other weapons, a mob of hundreds of men and women, including many boda boda drivers, descended upon an HIV/AIDS clinic in the nearby town of Mtwapa. “The mob wanted to burn us, to beat us,” recalled Ali Chege Omari, who was among the gay men and volunteers at the clinic who survived the merciless attack. “They wanted us killed.”

Since then, human rights groups have documented a wave of attacks on LGBTI Kenyans. In response, a host of LGBTI organizations, including AJWS grantee Initiative for Equality and Non Discrimination (INEND), are working to build a culture of tolerance, focusing on religious leaders, local government officials, media professionals—and the boda boda drivers.

INEND’s charismatic founder, Esther “Essy” Adhiambo, was determined to transform the drivers’ homophobia and prejudice into empathy and tolerance. “Don’t protest to ignorant people,” she said. “Bring them to the table, sit with them, educate them and inform them.”

In just two years, INEND has trained at least 320 boda boda drivers through intensive workshops and turned them into an unexpectedly dedicated legion of protectors for LGBTI Mombasans.



One driver, Santa Bingo, participated in the attack on the LGBTI clinic in 2010; but today, he educates his peers to protect the gay community. He is proud that “the hatred is going down.” He and many of his fellow drivers now wear special reflector vests with INEND’s logo, signaling to LGBTI people that it’s safe to ride with them. And when they see an LGBTI person being threatened, they alert INEND so its network can intervene.

For Chege, who survived the 2010 attack, the sound of a motorcycle revving no longer signals fear, but hope for the growing understanding between the LGBTI community and their new allies.



“The hatred is going down.”

—**SANTA BINGO**,
boda boda driver
who has become
an ally to the
LGBTI community

AJWS SUPPORTS:



10 GRANTEES
defending LGBTI
rights in Kenya



73 GRANTEES
promoting equality
for LGBTI people
worldwide

DRIVING OUT HATE Santa Bingo (left) and other motorbike taxi drivers used to harass—and sometimes harm—LGBTI people like Ali Chege Omari (right) on Kenya’s streets. But today, the drivers are allies and protectors, thanks to trainings on human rights and tolerance run by AJWS grantee INEND. **OPPOSITE:** Boda boda drivers trained by INEND waiting for customers. *Photos by Jonathan Torgovnik*

MOMENTUM ON HALTING MINING

Stopping a poisonous gold rush in El Salvador and Haiti

In El Salvador last year, a group of local farmers proved that water is more valuable than gold. The situation was dire: An upswing in gold mining had poisoned the water supply and caused dramatic increases in cancer and kidney disease.

Twelve grassroots groups organized thousands of local people to pressure the government to intervene. AJWS's in-country team supported and guided the network to organize and grow. After eleven years of advocacy, court cases, and incremental victories, the farmers won a government ban of all metal mining in 2017. El Salvador is the first nation ever to pass such a law.

And now, the Salvadoran activists are using their experience to advise and inspire a new movement in Haiti, where the threat of gold mining is looming.

Haiti sits on considerable gold deposits, and international mining companies have been spending millions to position themselves to cash in on a coming mining boom. But if mining begins in Haiti, it would come at a catastrophic cost. Haiti's gold deposits follow the same fault that caused the massive earthquake that killed hundreds of thousands of people in 2010. Releasing the gold would require vast amounts of poisonous cyanide, held in collecting pools that are far from earthquake-proof. Mining gold along a fault line—and in a country also prone to



“We consider AJWS a sister organization and strategic ally. The achievement we have had to ban metallic mining in El Salvador is also thanks to your support.”

—SAUL BAÑOS, human rights lawyer and director of FESPAD,
a member of the Salvadoran mining movement

hurricanes—poses an extreme risk that the deadly chemical would contaminate the surrounding land and water supply.

In 2013, with support from AJWS, Haitian activists and AJWS's in-country consultant launched Kolektif Jistis Min (the Mining Justice Collective)—which AJWS now funds—to fend off mining. Crucially, AJWS connected them with leaders of the Salvadoran mining movement and

others in the region to help the Haitian activists strategize and build their campaign. In 2016, the collective held “10 days of action on mining,” involving representatives from mining justice movements in more than 11 countries.

In 2018, Haiti’s mining activists are preparing for the long battle won by their Salvadoran neighbors and allies. They are mobilizing opposition, holding community meetings, engaging the media, and protesting to let the Haitian state and mining companies know that they will not allow metal mining in their communities. Peterson Derolus, co-coordinator of the Haiti Mining Justice Collective, says, “Agriculture, land, and water are the foundations of our life. We cannot permit mining companies to destroy this life.”

Our grantees are working to stop mining in Haiti before it starts—something that has never before happened in any country. They have the courage to pursue this ambitious goal thanks to the support of their colleagues around the world and the momentum gained by those who came before them.

AJWS SUPPORTS:



12 GRANTEES
fighting gold mining in
El Salvador and Haiti



70 GRANTEES
fending off harmful
resource extraction
worldwide

“Metal mining in Haiti will bring profits to the few and more misery for the masses. Haitian legislators should heed the example of El Salvador and listen to the voices of their own people who are cautioning against mining and demanding less destructive and more inclusive development.”

—THE NEW YORK TIMES, MARCH 2018



STOPPING MINING, COUNTRY BY COUNTRY With AJWS by their side, activists in El Salvador (opposite) won a historic mining ban in 2017. In Haiti (left), the Mining Justice Collective is mobilizing thousands. Their sign reads: “Yes to life! No to mining exploitation!” *Photos courtesy of Association de Desarrollo Económico Social, Santa Marta, and the Mining Justice Collective*

MOMENTUM ON LEGAL JUSTICE

Securing convictions for crimes against humanity in Guatemala

In 1981, during the Guatemalan armed conflict, 21-year-old political activist Emma Molina Theissen was arrested, brutally raped and tortured for nine days by the military. She managed to escape, but the army kidnapped her 14-year-old brother, Marco Antonio, to retaliate. He was never found. Marco Antonio was one of an estimated 45,000 people “disappeared” and 200,000 murdered during this horrific chapter in Guatemalan history. No high-level officials responsible for these crimes has ever been brought to justice—until now.

On May 23rd, 2018, Guatemala’s High Court convicted four former high-level military officers and sentenced them to decades-long prison sentences for the atrocities perpetrated against the Molina Theissen siblings nearly four decades ago.

Two of AJWS’s grantees played a significant role in advancing this case. Unidad de Defensores y Defensoras de Derechos Humanos en Guatemala (UDEFEHUA)—an organization that supports activists whose lives are at risk—protected the family and their legal team in court each day, fending off constant threats and verbal abuse by the military and the media. And Prensa Comunitaria, a group that fights for free press, covered the proceedings to counter the mainstream media’s false accusations that the family was pursuing the case solely out of economic interest.

Even amid ongoing political corruption, this victory has written a new chapter in the history of human rights in Guatemala, giving the next generation hope that such atrocities will not happen again.

“This sentence dignifies the people killed, tortured and disappeared, and their families who have been mired in a long oblivion by the justice system.”

—EMMA THEISSEN DE MOLINA,
mother of Marco Antonio and Emma

One of the court’s resolutions was to declare October 6th—the day Marco Antonio was abducted—a national day of “robbed childhoods,” recognizing all the youth whose lives were cut short. It has also given hope to activists in countries like Sri Lanka and Mexico who continue to seek justice for thousands of people who have been disappeared and murdered with impunity. For AJWS, this victory reinforces our belief in the power of social movements, as we renew our support for the rule of law and legal strategies to address mass atrocities around the world.

AJWS SUPPORTS:



16 GRANTEES
defending justice
in Guatemala



60 GRANTEES
promoting access to
justice and accountability
for human rights crimes
worldwide



LONG-AWAITED JUSTICE Emma Molina Theissen shows a bracelet made of her brother's belongings to reporters during a press conference in Guatemala City in May 2018. Thanks to the support of AJWS grantees, four retired high-ranking military officers were convicted of the 1981 rape and torture of Emma and the disappearance of her teenage brother Marco Antonio. *Photo courtesy of AP Images*

MOMENTUM ON DEMOCRACY

Rising against authoritarianism in Nicaragua

A powerful movement is sweeping Nicaragua.

Hundreds of thousands of people have flooded the streets in recent months to resist the authoritarian rule of president Daniel Ortega. Over the last 11 years, Ortega's brutal regime has censored the press, done away with term limits for elected officials and repressed opposition parties. In April, when he reformed social security to increase the cost to workers while reducing payouts, the nation decided it had had enough.

On April 18th, an emerging movement of university students led protests calling for Ortega to step down. With his power and reputation at stake, Ortega deployed the police and other armed men to silence the demonstrators—killing 42 people in the first week. The murders opened the floodgates, sending Nicaraguans from all walks of life to the streets in waves of mass protest. As the movement grew, so did the death toll. Nicaraguan police have opened live machine gun fire on marchers, detained and tortured students, and murdered more than 300 people, 16 of them in a mass attack on Mother's Day.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has accused the armed bodies of a “disproportionate use of force—including lethal force” aimed at young protestors. Ortega's administration engaged in a number of dialogue sessions meant to create a peaceful solution to the violence—yet he has refused to order a ceasefire or even to acknowledge the brutality happening in his name.

During one dialogue, Lesther Alemán, 20, spoke boldly to the President: “Can you sleep at night?” he asked. “We have not slept soundly. We're being persecuted, and we're students.”



A NATION FED UP Thousands march in the streets of Managua to call for an end to Daniel Ortega's authoritarian regime. *Photo courtesy of La Lucero Arte Social*



AJWS SUPPORTS:



12 GRANTEES
fighting
authoritarianism
in Nicaragua



90 GRANTEES
promoting
democracy
worldwide

On June 15th, activists led a nationwide worker strike that shut down the capital city of Managua. Faced with the prospect of economic catastrophe, Ortega finally agreed to allow the Inter-American Commission to investigate and identify those responsible for “all death and acts of violence.” And yet, the following week, his forces poisoned protesters with sulfuric acid and unleashed machine gun fire—still determined to repress citizens who want to change their country for the better.

He also passed an “anti-terrorism law” that the UN has condemned as a tactic to muzzle voices of opposition. More than 100 people who have protested or aided protesters are now on trial for so-called “terrorism” and 300 more were illegally detained and awaiting trial. While the law has forced many of the activists to work in secret, because they can no longer meet or speak out in public, mass protesting has continued unabated.

AJWS has supported activists on the frontlines of this historic uprising for democracy and justice.

AJWS’s grantees are providing safe harbor and psychosocial support to persecuted youth activists—some of whom were engaging in the dialogues with Ortega—so they can continue their organizing and process the traumas they have suffered. We are also enhancing their cyber security to fend off hackers and online attacks. And our grantees are supporting the grassroots youth movement to develop visions and plans for public policy. If Nicaraguans secure a future without Ortega, these youth are ready to play a powerful role in shaping their country into a functional, transparent and accountable democracy.

“I am not afraid.”

—**FELIX MARADIAGA**,
a leading activist in the protest
movement and Director of the
Institute of Strategic Studies and
Public Policies (IEPP)

MOMENTUM ON CAPITOL HILL

Holding back the tide of attacks on human rights

The past two years have brought a litany of assaults on global human rights—many from within our own government. Among the most egregious: The Trump administration tried to slash funding for international aid and has cut off all funding to international organizations that support reproductive choice.

To mitigate the administration's threats, AJWS has participated in strong D.C. coalitions, engaged the media, and deployed rabbis and supporters on Capitol Hill. **Together with many others, we blocked some of the most malicious threats to human rights abroad.**

DEFENDING ABORTION RIGHTS WORLDWIDE

On his third day in office, just days after the historic Women's March, President Trump put millions of women, girls and LGBTI people around the world at risk with a stroke of his pen. Through a presidential memorandum, he reinstated and dramatically expanded the "Global Gag Rule," which forbids the U.S. from giving global health assistance to any overseas organization that provides abortions, refers women to abortion services, or advocates for more liberal abortion laws.

In 2018, Republicans in Congress tried to enshrine this temporary executive order into law through the federal budget—but AJWS and our allies didn't let it happen. **After months of advocacy, we and our allies had the gag rule removed from the bill, ensuring that future administrations can still reverse the damage Trump has inflicted on global sexual and reproductive health and rights.**

BLOCKING BUDGET CUTS TO FOREIGN AID

When President Trump released his proposed federal budget in 2017, he demanded that the U.S. cut 32% from the State Department and \$1 billion from HIV/AIDS funding—and eliminate family planning. AJWS knew that Trump's proposed radical cuts in foreign aid and diplomacy would throw more people into poverty, undermine efforts to halt epidemic disease and strengthen the conditions under which authoritarian regimes disregard the rights of their citizens—and so we fought back.

In March 2018, AJWS and our coalition partners succeeded in ensuring that Congress preserved full funding for now for the State Department and USAID, in defiance of the President's proposed budget.



JEWISH LEADERS TAKE A STAND Rabbi David Englander and AJWS Director of Government Affairs Rori Kramer meet with Representative Ted Deutch in 2018.
Photo by Richard Greenhouse

*"We need AJWS now more than ever before.
We need you. The power is not with elected
officials, it's with you, the people."*

—SENATOR BEN CARDIN, October 2017

BLOCKING THREATS TO FOREIGN AID

MARCH 2017

Trump proposed 32% slash to U.S. foreign assistance and \$1 billion cut from HIV/AIDS funding in his spending budget, endangering human rights programs at the State Department and USAID.

THREAT

Advocacy

Impasse

Progress

Advocacy

WIN!

MARCH-APRIL 2017

To preserve U.S. spending for human rights, AJWS mobilized through coalitions including the Interfaith Working Group on Foreign Assistance, InterAction and International Family Planning Coalition. We also brought prominent American rabbis, including our Global Justice Fellows, to lobby 22 Congressional offices to support \$58.8 billion for the State Department. They helped secure a record number of signatures on a Congressional letter urging full funding for the U.S. initiative to fight AIDS worldwide.

JULY 2017

AJWS staff joined other faith leaders to lobby on Capitol Hill for full funding for poverty relief.

SEPTEMBER 2017

The House passed its version of the budget, with many of Trump's proposed cuts intact. The Senate pushed for more funding, and budget negotiations stalled.

FEBRUARY 2018

Bipartisan leadership of the House and Senate reached a "grand bargain" to avert a crisis by proposing a budget large enough to cover some of the accounts Trump sought to dismantle. They turned it over to committees to hash out what would stay in and what would get cut.

MARCH 2018

During these hotly contested negotiations, AJWS brought 26 rabbis to Capitol Hill to lobby for full foreign aid funding and fight against threats to reproductive rights, including the attempt to make the Global Gag Rule permanent law.



Photo by
Jonathan Torgovnik

Congress passed final federal spending budget with no cuts to foreign assistance, international affairs, AIDS or family planning.

MEETING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF PHILANTHROPIC INTEGRITY

“FOUR STARS”

by *Charity Navigator*
for 16 years

“A” RATING

by *CharityWatch*
(formerly American
Institute of
Philanthropy)
since 2004

ALL 20

of *Better Business
Bureau’s* standards
for charity
accountability

AWARD:

“2017 Email Fundraising
Appeal of the Year”
by *Direct Marketing
Fundraiser’s Association*





“I’m the second generation in my family to support AJWS—and I hope my daughter will be the third. Being part of this community is helping me nurture her own budding passion for social justice.”

—**JULIE GOLDSTEIN**, educator and AJWS supporter

EARTH SMART In Mexico’s Oaxaca state, AJWS grantee Union de Organizaciones de la Sierra Juarez, Oaxaca (UNOSJO) is teaching indigenous children about the importance of their ancestral land by helping them grow food and care for small gardens at their school. *Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik*

2018 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

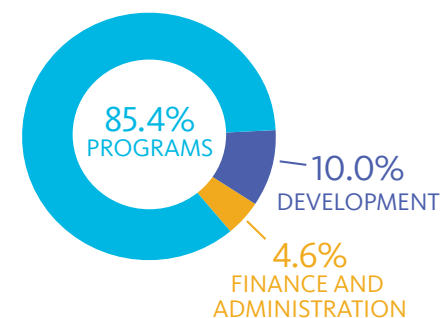
American Jewish World Service, Inc.

Statement of Financial Position as of April 30, 2018

(with summarized comparative financial information as of April 30, 2017)

| | 2018 | 2017 |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$13,988,899 | \$22,130,290 |
| Contributions receivable, net | 27,102,721 | 10,356,784 |
| Investments, at fair value | 14,549,652 | 12,541,730 |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets | 821,055 | 592,159 |
| Property and equipment, net | 888,164 | 823,393 |
| Total assets | \$57,350,491 | \$46,444,356 |
| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | | |
| Liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | \$545,706 | \$1,503,371 |
| Grants payable | 6,375,101 | 6,812,577 |
| Deferred rent | 731,708 | 557,357 |
| Unearned revenue | 108,162 | 111,949 |
| Charitable gift annuity obligations | 194,707 | 176,013 |
| Total liabilities | 7,955,384 | 9,161,267 |
| Net assets: | | |
| Unrestricted: | | |
| Undesignated | 228,838 | 652,667 |
| Designated for donor-advised fund | 2,849,243 | 10,226,907 |
| Board-designated for reserve fund | 9,761,210 | 6,364,952 |
| Board-designated for working capital fund | 3,993,375 | 4,720,973 |
| Total unrestricted | 16,832,666 | 21,965,499 |
| Restricted | 32,562,441 | 15,317,590 |
| Total net assets | 49,395,107 | 37,283,089 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | \$57,350,491 | \$46,444,356 |

EXPENDITURES



The Statements of Financial Position and Activities were derived from the 2018 audited financial statements of American Jewish World Service, Inc. The complete audited financial statements and Form 990 for 2018 are available on our website. Our independent auditor is Grant Thornton LLP.

American Jewish World Service, Inc.

Statement of Activities for the year ended April 30, 2018

(with summarized comparative financial information for the year ended April 30, 2017)

| | 2018 | | 2017 | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | UNRESTRICTED | RESTRICTED | TOTAL | TOTAL |
| REVENUES AND SUPPORT | | | | |
| Contributions: | | | | |
| Individuals | \$12,025,251 | \$23,770,294 | \$35,795,545 | \$26,743,044 |
| Donor-advised fund | 8,500,000 | - | 8,500,000 | 34,000,000 |
| Bequests | 276,541 | 300,000 | 576,541 | 298,238 |
| Foundations and corporations | 604,742 | 17,826,551 | 18,431,293 | 3,785,547 |
| Government agencies | 258,014 | - | 258,014 | 261,499 |
| Special event revenue, net of expenses of \$51,269 in 2018 and \$289,731 in 2017 | 104,733 | - | 104,733 | 729,439 |
| Donated services and goods | 577,857 | - | 577,857 | 530,179 |
| Investment return, net of expenses of \$54,162 in 2018 and \$35,371 in 2017 | 468,865 | 498 | 469,363 | 317,950 |
| Study tour fees and miscellaneous revenue | 374,317 | 507 | 374,824 | 353,284 |
| Net assets released from restrictions | 24,652,999 | (24,652,999) | - | - |
| TOTAL REVENUES AND SUPPORT | 47,843,319 | 17,244,851 | 65,088,170 | 67,019,180 |
| EXPENDITURES | | | | |
| <i>Program services:</i> | | | | |
| Programs | 39,350,299 | - | 39,350,299 | 53,389,852 |
| Communications | 3,544,231 | - | 3,544,231 | 3,958,231 |
| Strategic learning, research and evaluation | 2,346,766 | - | 2,346,766 | 2,256,955 |
| Total program services expenses | 45,241,296 | - | 45,241,296 | 59,605,038 |
| <i>Supporting services:</i> | | | | |
| Finance and administration | 2,415,865 | - | 2,415,865 | 2,720,750 |
| Development | 5,318,991 | - | 5,318,991 | 5,238,762 |
| Total supporting services expenses | 7,734,856 | - | 7,734,856 | 7,959,512 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 52,976,152 | - | 52,976,152 | 67,564,550 |
| Change in net assets | (5,132,833) | 17,244,851 | 12,112,018 | (545,370) |
| Beginning net assets | 21,965,499 | 15,317,590 | 37,283,089 | 37,828,459 |
| ENDING NET ASSETS | \$16,832,666 | \$32,562,441 | \$49,395,107 | \$37,283,089 |

OUR SUPPORTERS



You are our partners in building momentum for justice.

Building momentum for social change takes courage, commitment, and the hard work of thousands. It also takes significant financial resources.

If you made a gift to AJWS this year, you were an essential partner in changing lives.

You joined with millions of women and girls around the world in their fight for gender equality and you stood alongside more than 700,000 Rohingya refugees as they made the desperate journey to safety in Bangladesh. You acted hand-in-hand with scores of Salvadoran and Haitian farmers who insisted that their local water supply must not be poisoned by mining, and you helped make history when AJWS's advocacy helped thwart our government's attempt to enshrine the Global Gag Rule into law.

Your generosity enabled progress in a year of immense brokenness.

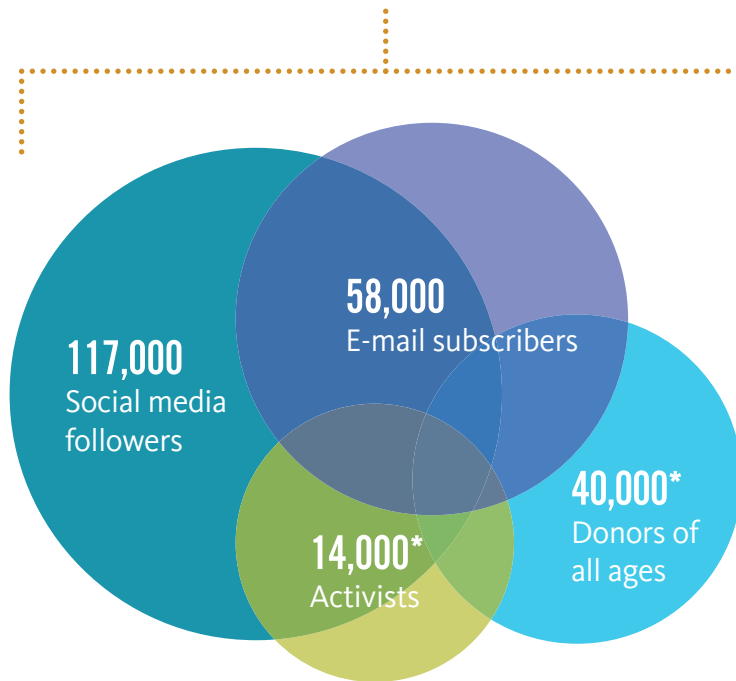
Together, we've helped people rise out of poverty and advance equality, justice and peace in their communities in 19 countries in the developing world. We've made real and tangible progress in fighting growing authoritarianism and violence around the globe. We will continue these fights, ever grateful for your partnership and your belief that a more perfect world is possible.

THANK YOU.

SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY Left: Supporters connect with Indian youth receiving leadership training from AJWS grantee SAMVADA. Opposite page: Rabbis in AJWS's Global Justice Fellowship learn advocacy skills from activists confronting discrimination in the Dominican Republic. *Photographs by Christine Han*

AJWS unites the power of **170,000 supporters** from all 50 states and around the world. Adding up the impact of our community—from the young professionals of Global Circle to the legacy donors who support our work in perpetuity through planned giving—we are changing millions of lives together.

170,000 SUPPORTERS



**Made a donation or took action between 2015-2018*



JEWISH ENGAGEMENT FOR JUSTICE

1,800 rabbis in our clergy network

15 Global Justice Fellows—rabbis honing their leadership for social change

413 alumni of the fellowship fostering activism from pulpits and communities across the U.S.

200,000+ downloads of our Haggadah and other Jewish social justice resources

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The following pages acknowledge our generous donors who have contributed to AJWS during our fiscal years 2017 and 2018 (May 1, 2016-April 30, 2018).

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\$1 million and above

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OPTIMISM FOR PEACE Adama Bodian (in blue) and her family are recovering from years of civil war in Casamance, Senegal. *Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik*

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RABBIS TRAVEL FOR CHANGE AJWS Global Justice Fellows in Guatemala for a week-long training on advocacy and human rights. *Photos by Christine Han*





LAND IS LIFE Hillside in Oaxaca, Mexico, where AJWS grantee UNOSJO defends the natural resources that have sustained indigenous people for generations.

Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik



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WORK WITH MEANING Members of AJWS's staff and board connect, collaborate, travel and celebrate a year of meaningful progress in advancing human rights around the globe.

Photos by Christine Han, except bottom left by Kristin Little

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AJWS President and CEO Robert Bank with young activists in India. *Photo by Christine Han*

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Ugandan women on the shores of Lake Albert, a vital source of fish and income for the region's rural people. Since the lake is being threatened by pollution from oil drilling, mining and deforestation, AJWS grantee National Association of Professional Environmentalists is organizing local people to advocate for more sustainable and equitable use of natural resources. *Photo by Christine Han*



PROGRESS AROUND THE WORLD

Front cover: Senegalese young women and girls are happy to be back to school after years away during violent conflict in Casamance.

Opposite page: In Chiquirín, El Salvador, LGBTI youth gain pride in their identities through a training led by Colectivo LGBTI Estrellas Golfo, La Union.

Back cover: Revived wetlands in El Salvador.

Photos by Jonathan Torgovnik

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