For 30 years, AJWS has tackled some of the gravest problems facing the developing world—poverty, genocide, AIDS, violence against women and horrific natural disasters. Today, AJWS invests nearly $30 million each year to address four critical issues in 19 countries—improving the lives of millions of people. We work on: sexual health and rights; natural resource rights and climate justice; civil and political rights; and disasters.

To promote lasting change, AJWS funds and strengthens grassroots and global human rights organizations—with the understanding that the people who are most affected by problems are best suited to address them. We also advocate for U.S. and international laws and policies that help overcome injustice; we conduct research to learn about and strengthen our work and advance the field of human rights; and we use strategic communications to amplify our grantees’ voices and influence policymakers in the U.S. and around the globe.

In addition to providing social change organizations with funding, we build their capacity, support their advocacy for human rights and support them to build strong social movements. This three-pronged approach yields a rich range of results: nascent grassroots groups have become established organizations; our grantees have won key court cases and advanced new laws; and we have supported them in building coalitions that fight prejudice and discrimination with greater power.

We collect detailed data on our grantees, which gives us a clear picture of their geographic reach, focus, funding and other indicators of how they are equipped to achieve our mutual goals.

We monitor our progress toward strategic plans for each issue and each country that include 10-year goals, 3-year outcomes and annual milestones toward each outcome. This allows AJWS to monitor and evaluate what our grantees are accomplishing collectively—on our issues, in their countries and internationally. We track successes, shortfalls and opportunities and use this data to fine-tune our grantmaking and strategies each year.

We evaluate AJWS’s U.S. and global advocacy with the same rigorous processes of reporting, analysis and reflection, to ensure that this work is effectively furthering the same strategic goals as our grantmaking.

We facilitate ongoing learning with staff and grantees, using the analysis of our data to respond to challenges and opportunities.

By placing learning at the center of everything we do, AJWS maximizes our funding and our impact.

COVER PHOTOS (From left to right): Masai villagers in Kenya who seek equal rights for indigenous people (photo by Mark Tuschman); a young woman in India who advocates against early marriage (photo by Jonathan Torgovnik); and a group of activists and journalists on a mission to expose the damage and violence caused by mining in Mexico (photo by Evan Abramson).
GETTING RESULTS

Our 2014 – 2015 analysis revealed 172 distinct victories—measurable progress or key accomplishments in the pursuit of human rights—including:

- **Cambodian garment workers secured a wage hike**—from $128 to $140 per month—from the Cambodian government. The workers earned just $61 when AJWS grantee WIC began organizing in 2012. This latest win brings them closer to a living wage.

- **Female survivors of sexual violence in the Democratic of Congo won 22 court cases against their abusers**, with support from Lawyers at Dynamique de Femmes Juristes (DFJ).

- **AJWS grantee Colectivo Oaxaqueño, in Mexico, secured a ban against mining indigenous land in the town of Magdalena Teitipac**, preserving the farms and waterways that the community depends on for survival.

- **Following strategic advocacy led by AJWS staff and supporters, the U.S. government appointed its first ever Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTI Persons**, making it a clear U.S. priority to stop discrimination and violence against LGBT people worldwide.

RESEARCH

We conduct original research and external evaluations to investigate AJWS’s impact and better understand the human rights issues on which we work. We share our findings with our grantees and other funders so they can apply what we have learned in their strategies for change.

For example, in 2014, we collaborated with researchers in Kenya, Senegal, Bolivia, Haiti and Peru to assess AJWS’s contribution to social change in these countries over time. The Kenya study, for example, showed that 85% of our grantees have successfully delayed or stopped exploitative economic development projects that were endangering the lives and livelihoods of local people.

In 2015 AJWS published Early and Child Marriage: A Landscape Analysis—the first in a series of original research in support of our work to end child marriage in India. In it, AJWS grantee Nirantar Trust investigates the root causes and the shortcomings of existing changemaking efforts. This groundbreaking work has transformed AJWS’s strategy and influenced fellow funders.