



DISASTER RESPONSE



After Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti in 2016, AJWS has helped communities like this one rebuild and recover. *Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik*

THE PROBLEM

When disasters strike developing countries, 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. In developing countries, 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

1998	Hurricane Mitch in Central America	\$545,000
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
2016	Hurricane Matthew in the Caribbean	\$666,000
2017	East Africa Hunger Crisis	\$599,000
2018	Indonesia Disaster Response	\$309,000
2017-2019	Emergency Rohingya Fund	\$692,000
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. Today, our partners in Bangladesh are working to improve conditions in these camps, support children's education, train healthcare volunteers and increase safety and security for women and girls.

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.



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*

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.

EARTHQUAKES IN NEPAL

In the spring of 2015, two massive earthquakes struck Nepal, decimating entire villages and leaving 8,940 people dead, 22,239 injured and 188,900 displaced. AJWS has supported 23 grassroots organizations helping survivors who were neglected by international relief efforts, like Dalits, Nepal's "untouchable" class. For example, when a community of Dalits was found 10 months later still living under the open sky, AJWS grantee ADWAN distributed roofing material to 139 families rebuilding their homes, and provided wash stations, replaced or fixed toilets, and taught community members to build safe, smokeless stoves.

EBOLA IN LIBERIA

AJWS had been working in Liberia for more than a decade when Ebola ravaged the country in 2014. Our grantees turned to us for help in their most pressing need: to dispel fear and misinformation so people could learn how to protect themselves. AJWS sent more than \$1 million to help dozens of organizations staunch the transmission of the virus through public health campaigns and sanitization supplies. They also counseled survivors who were ostracized and barred from communal life after their near-fatal ordeals—and educated communities to overcome their stigma and fear.

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