American Jewish World Service (AJWS) is the leading Jewish organization working to promote human rights and end poverty in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Over the past 35 years, AJWS has provided $430 million to thousands of grassroots and global social justice organizations striving to effect change on critical human rights issues. AJWS currently invests $33.7 million annually to promote human rights and supports 519 groups focused in 18 countries. Meanwhile, on Capitol Hill and internationally, we advocate for laws and policies that promote human rights and strengthen our efforts to combat poverty, oppression and injustice worldwide.

Jewish tradition teaches that if a person saves one life, it is as if they’ve saved the entire world. By that measure, over these past 30 years, [AJWS has] saved the world many, many times over.

—PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA, 2015

AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE

Working together to build a more just and equitable world

WHO WE ARE

WHAT WE DO

AJWS BY THE NUMBERS

$33.7 MILLION INVESTED IN 2020*
in our grantmaking and social change strategies to advance human rights and end poverty

519 GRANTEES
changing lives and building movements for justice

18 COUNTRIES
in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean

4 ISSUE AREAS:
Sexual Health and Rights | Land, Water and Climate Justice
Civil and Political Rights | Disaster and Humanitarian Response

170,000 SUPPORTERS
from 50 states

*Including $2.1 million invested through a donor-advised fund administered by AJWS

Photos from left to right: Activists and members of communities supported by AJWS in Thailand, Guatemala, and Senegal. Photos by Allison Joyce, Christine Han, and Jonathan Torgovnik

OUR ISSUES

Sexual Health and Rights
We support 185 organizations empowering women, girls and LGBTQI+ people to stop violence and discrimination and live with dignity, safety and health.

Civil and Political Rights
We aid 161 communities to fight for civil and political rights around the globe—promoting justice under the law for all and the right to be heard, vote and participate in political life.

Land, Water and Climate Justice
We support 158 grassroots groups slowing climate change and protecting the land, water and natural resources that rural and Indigenous people depend on for survival.

Disaster and Humanitarian Response
In the wake of earthquakes, hurricanes, droughts, epidemics and other crises, we support grassroots relief organizations to save lives and build more equitable societies.

RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
Since COVID-19 emerged, AJWS has supported our grantees to aid communities with essential needs, stop the spread of infection and defend human rights under fire.
PEOPLE WE HELP
AJWS supports 519 organizations around the world. Many of them are grassroots groups led by people who have been directly affected by discrimination, violence and other human rights violations. The populations we support include:

- Women & Adolescent Girls
- Youth
- LGBTIQ+ People
- Religious & Ethnic Minorities
- Farmers, Fishers & Laborers
- Indigenous Communities
- Refugees & Internally Displaced People
- LGBTQI+ People
- Human Rights Defenders
- Religious & Ethnic Minorities

WHY WE PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS
AJWS strives to overcome the root causes of poverty and oppression by supporting grassroots organizations and social movements for justice. Our grantees advocate for people’s rights—to live without violence, to have a say in the laws that govern society and to express one’s religion, culture, sexual orientation or gender identity.

We believe that realizing human rights is the essential first step to creating just societies. When people are empowered to shape solutions to the problems they face, they can overcome poverty, live with dignity and transform the lives of others. Additionally, we believe that promoting human rights is a way to act on the Jewish traditions of repairing the world and respecting the inherent dignity of all human beings.

GET INVOLVED!
All of AJWS’s work is made possible by our committed community of supporters and activists.

To donate, attend a digital event, learn more about our work, or find out about opportunities to take action with AJWS, visit www.ajws.org.

In a nationwide protest organized by AJWS grantee MovMDx, Mexican activists took to the streets of Mexico City and 18 other cities on International Day Against Forced Disappearances. Photo by Regina López