



DISASTER AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

THE CHALLENGES

In the wake of a hurricane, earthquake, tsunami or humanitarian crisis, people are left reeling, devastated by the loss of family, friends and their homes. In the immediate aftermath, they struggle to find the food, water and shelter they need to survive. Emergencies like these are on the rise. The climate crisis is dramatically escalating the severity and frequency of natural disasters, and the global rise in authoritarianism is sparking devastating violence and displacement.

And while disasters can happen anywhere on earth, we are not all affected equally. Poor communities may lack the resources to rebuild their homes. Crises disrupt critical systems that people rely on, such as schools and medical care—which are even more vulnerable to collapse in low-income communities. Populations who already face significant inequities, including women and girls, LGBTQI+ people, Indigenous communities and religious and ethnic minorities, tend to experience an uptick in violence and injustice when a crisis strikes. In the months and years that follow, vulnerable communities consistently see their needs disregarded and their human rights diminished by their own governments. These effects can reverberate for years.

HOW WE MAKE CHANGE

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 best, 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 poor and vulnerable communities, addressing often-overlooked issues like violence in refugee camps or the need for psychosocial and mental health support.

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, build more equitable societies and grow more resilient against future threats.



When a devastating surge of COVID-19 struck India in 2021, members of AJWS grantee Azad Foundation delivered medical supplies and food to families in need. *Photo courtesy of Azad Foundation*

A HISTORY OF EMERGENCY RELIEF

Our most significant humanitarian efforts since our founding in 1985

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
2020-Present	COVID-19 Response	Ongoing
2021	Haiti Earthquake	\$887,000

CRISIS RESPONSE IN ACTION AROUND THE WORLD

EARTHQUAKE AND DEMOCRATIC CRISIS IN HAITI

In August 2021, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck **Haiti**. This was the second massive quake in just over a decade, and came right on the heels of the collapse of Haiti's government and the assassination of its former president. An earthquake of this magnitude would have caused terrible damage to any nation, but in a country with limited government to respond, it was nothing short of catastrophic. In this void of leadership, AJWS grantees and other local organizations have been a vital lifeline to communities. They launched critical relief campaigns to aid families near the epicenter, all while continuing to lead crucial work to resuscitate Haiti's democracy and pull the country out of this current crisis.



When a catastrophic earthquake struck Haiti in 2021, AJWS grantee MOSCTHA organized a mobile health clinic to treat survivors. MOSCTHA was also instrumental in responding to the 2010 quake that hit Port-au-Prince. *Photo courtesy of MOSCTHA*

TSUNAMIS IN INDONESIA

Throughout late 2018, **Indonesia** suffered multiple catastrophic tsunamis, leaving nearly 200,000 people displaced, their homes damaged or entirely swept away. One tsunami struck the coast of Sulawesi in September, 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.

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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