



AMERICAN  
JEWISH  
WORLD  
SERVICE

2013 Annual Report

# HOPE ACTION CHANGE





*Inspired by the Jewish commitment to justice,*  
**American Jewish World Service**  
*works to end poverty and realize human rights.*

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The indigenous Mexican women of Centro para los Derechos de la Mujer, Naaxwiin work to reduce violence against women.

*Photograph by Evan Abramson*



With support from AJWS grantee  
Khmer Youth and Social Development,  
this Cambodian teen and his peers  
have successfully reduced illegal  
logging on their village's land.

*Photograph by Leah Kaplan Robins*

# *“The only recognizable feature of hope is action.”*

—GRACE PALEY

DEAR FRIENDS:

The world is full of injustice. Every day, people around the globe experience poverty and hunger, prejudice and discrimination, violence and corruption, greed and hate.

**HOPE** But despite the world's profound brokenness, we are filled with great hope. That's because each and every day we see evidence of progress. AJWS grantees and supporters are demonstrating that we can stop injustice, save lives and tip the scales in favor of human rights.

**ACTION** AJWS supports tens of thousands of activists in 19 priority countries in the developing world and mobilizes our own supporters here in the U.S. These “changemakers” work tirelessly to advance the health and rights of women, girls and LGBT people; defend access to food, land and livelihoods; promote civil and political rights; and aid communities in the aftermath of disasters. Every day we are inspired to see people of every background—Jews, global activists, and our allies in the U.S. and around the world—united through action.

**CHANGE** **Throughout 2013 activists supported by AJWS helped raise communities out of poverty, pass new laws to protect the rights of the poor and the oppressed, and insist that global leaders use their power to improve our world.**

**We made great strides for women's rights:** In India, AJWS grantees helped bring about the passage of new legislation

against rape. Grassroots organizations in Honduras succeeded in strengthening laws against the targeted murder of women. Grantees in Nicaragua established the first clinic in Latin America where lesbian, bisexual and transgender women can access health care without fear of discrimination or violence.

**We helped communities defend their land and prevent hunger:** In Kenya, indigenous rights groups won a historic case to stop commercial loggers from evicting indigenous people from their homes. And in early 2014 we celebrated the culmination of AJWS's two-year *Reverse Hunger* campaign when we achieved key reforms to U.S. food-aid policy that will enable American aid to reach at least half a million more people.

**We promoted recovery from conflicts, oppression and disasters:** In Senegal, where an armed conflict has claimed lives for decades in a remote region, rural women succeeded in finally bringing peace to their surrounding communities. In Burma, AJWS grantees insisted that the world pay attention to the persecution of ethnic minorities. And AJWS donors opened their hearts and hands to enable us to send lifesaving aid to survivors of Typhoon Haiyan, which killed 6,000 people and left four million homeless in the Philippines.

These breakthroughs energized us as we launched several new initiatives. In July 2013 AJWS received a \$15.3 million grant from The Kendeda Fund that will enable us to intensify our work to end child marriage in India. In August we founded the Global Justice Fellowship, which is mobilizing American Jewish leaders to become outspoken advocates for policy change in the

U.S. that will benefit people in the developing world. And finally, in December, we launched our new *We Believe* campaign, calling on the U.S. government to help end violence against women, girls and LGBT people and empower girls to end child marriage worldwide.

**At every step of the way, you were our partners in spreading hope and bringing about change through action.**

Thank you for your support in 2013 and today—and for your ongoing commitment to global justice.

Sincerely,



The handwritten signature of Ruth W. Messinger.

Ruth W. Messinger  
President



The handwritten signature of Kathleen Levin.

Kathleen Levin  
*Chair of the Board*



A woman earns her living catching fish in Uganda, where AJWS grantee Kwataniza Women Farmers Group is helping women attain economic independence.  
*Photograph by Evan Abramson*

# A LEADER IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

AJWS is the leading Jewish organization working to promote human rights and end poverty in the developing world. For 29 years AJWS has supported efforts to overcome oppression and fight for the rights of others. Since our founding, we have granted \$230 million to support human rights worldwide.

## AJWS IS ONE OF THE TOP 10 HUMAN RIGHTS FUNDERS GLOBALLY.\*

- **6th largest funder of women and girls\***
- **8th largest funder of environmental and natural resource rights\***
- **4th largest U.S.-based funder of international LGBT work†**

Five AJWS grantees won national and international awards for human rights in 2013



\*International Human Rights Funders Group 2014

†Funders for LGBTQ Issues 2012



# THE JEWISH VOICE FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE

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AJWS is a Jewish organization with a diverse community of supporters, including Jews of every background and people of all faiths, ethnicities, races, gender identities and sexual orientations. The AJWS community is united by a deep belief in the dignity of every person and the desire to pursue human rights and justice for all. AJWS supporters share our core belief that people and communities confronting poverty, oppression and other challenges deserve the resources to advocate for themselves.

For many AJWS supporters, *tikkun olam*—the Hebrew phrase for repairing the world—is the essence of what it means to be Jewish. They are inspired by Jewish teachings to help the poor, treat the stranger with dignity and recognize the inherent value of every human being. At the same time, many of our supporters are committed to ending hatred and bigotry against all people as a response to the persecution and genocide perpetrated against Jews in the past. No matter their background, all of our supporters are global citizens who wish to build a better world.

On a Study Tour to India, AJWS supporter Lisa Mednick Owen visits AJWS grantee Mohammad Bazar Backward Class Development Society, which works to promote the rights of women and girls.  
*Photograph by Ruth Messinger*

# PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD IN 2013





**\$39 MILLION**  
GRANTED TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS  
IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

These Ugandan women earn a living selling gathered straw. *Photograph by Evan Abramson*

**530**  
GRANTEES EFFECTING  
CHANGE

**150,000**  
DONORS, ACTIVISTS AND  
SUPPORTERS IN THE U.S.

# OUR GLOBAL ACTION STRATEGY

In 2013 AJWS supported 530 social change organizations worldwide and mobilized tens of thousands of supporters in the United States to promote human rights and end poverty in the developing world.

**In 19 priority countries** our grassroots grantees worked to bring about their communities' own visions for social change. They empowered women, girls and LGBT people; stopped violence, prejudice and discrimination; and enabled rural and indigenous people to protect the land and resources that they depend on for survival.

**Globally** AJWS funded larger regional, national and international social justice organizations that supported and amplified the work of our grassroots grantees and used their influence to change the world on a broader scale.

**Across the U.S. and on Capitol Hill** AJWS mobilized the American Jewish community and other supporters to engage in campaigns, lobby Congress, and advocate for laws and policies that promote human rights in the developing world. We also inspired Jewish and political leaders to become informed and passionate advocates through our new Global Justice Fellowship and Action Teams.

**Together, these activists and supporters took on some of the greatest human rights struggles of the year.**

AJWS grantee Flor y Canto supports farmers Josefina Sanchez and Angel Gonzalez in Mexico.  
*Photograph by Evan Abramson*





## MAKING A DIFFERENCE ON ISSUES THAT MATTER

AJWS grants focus on the following themes:

Health and  
Rights of  
Women, Girls  
and LGBT  
People

Food,  
Land and  
Livelihoods

Civil and  
Political  
Rights

Disaster  
Response

## PROMOTING THE DIGNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE

AJWS grants serve the following target populations in some of the most marginalized communities worldwide:



A woman and child supported by Jana Sanghati Kendra, an AJWS grantee that fights for the rights of women and agricultural workers in India.

*Photograph by Ruth Messinger*

A photograph of two young women of Asian descent. The woman on the left has dark hair pulled back and is wearing a grey zip-up hoodie over a red and white striped shirt. She is looking slightly to her right with a neutral expression. The woman on the right has dark hair tied up in a bun and is wearing a vibrant yellow, red, and green floral patterned top. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. They appear to be indoors, with shelves and colorful fabrics visible in the background.

*Stories of*  
**HOPE, ACTION** and **CHANGE**

**LEFT** Cambodian garment workers organize to advocate for labor rights, with the support of AJWS grantee Worker's Information Centre.  
*Photograph by Evan Abramson*

**RIGHT** Masai children in Kenya live in a village where local people are working to protect their land and livelihoods, with the support of AJWS grantee Il'laramatak Community Concerns.

*Photograph by Mark Tuschman*



*In 2013 AJWS's grantees and supporters took action in their communities, countries and around the world. From villages and cities in developing countries, to the halls of the U.S. Congress in Washington, these activists replaced violence with compassion, hatred with understanding, oppression with empowerment, and conflict with peace.*

ADVANCING THE HEALTH AND RIGHTS OF  
**WOMEN, GIRLS AND LGBT PEOPLE**

A photograph of a woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a black sequined top, holding a young child in a yellow tank top. They are outdoors, with a white cloth featuring red floral patterns draped over a wooden structure in the background.

2013:  
\$9.65 million  
144 grantees effecting change

# RISING UP TO STOP RAPE AND VIOLENCE

For decades, AJWS's grantees around the world have worked to stop violence against women.



In late 2012 the brutal rape and murder of a student on a public bus in Delhi, India, set off a global outcry that called attention to the magnitude of this problem.

As people flooded India's streets in protest, AJWS's grantees spent early 2013 working to harness the public's desire to bring about policy change. Groups like Awaaz-e-Niswaan and Shaheen organized demonstrations, night vigils, and educational programs. Vanangana, SANGRAM and Association for Advocacy and Legal Initiatives intensified their advocacy to strengthen India's weak anti-rape laws—something they had been pursuing for many years.

**In March 2013, their efforts helped bring about the passage of a new law that prohibits sexual harassment, stalking and other related offenses and broadens the legal definition of "rape" to include violent sexual assault. These advances are an important step toward justice for women throughout the country.**

**LEFT** Mother and child, Nicaragua.  
*Photograph by Evan Abramson*

**RIGHT** AJWS grantee SANGRAM organizes a protest as part of the largest public outcry against rape in India's history.  
*Photograph courtesy of SANGRAM*



# EMPOWERING GIRLS TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURES

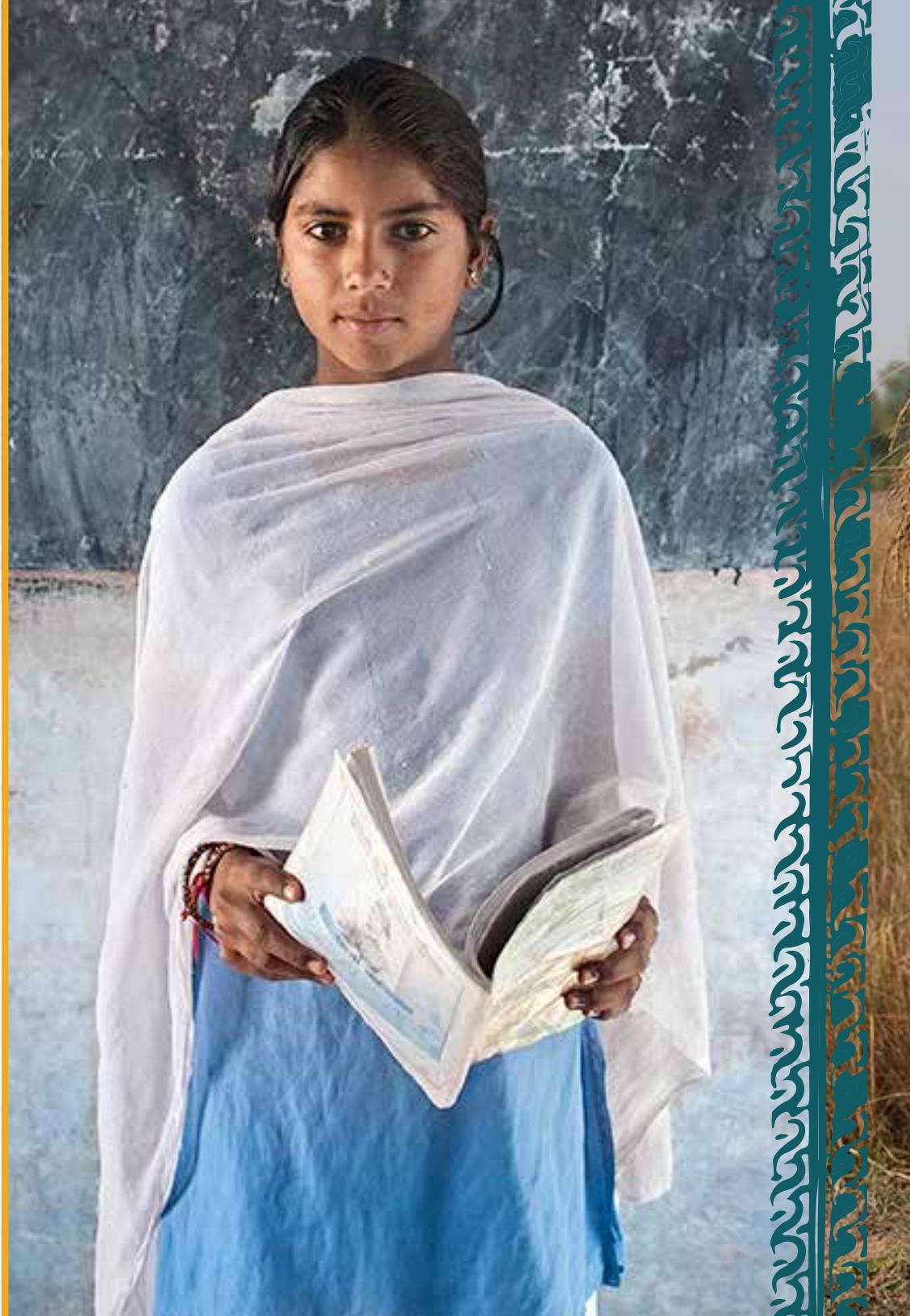
In July 2013 AJWS received a three-year \$15.3 million grant from The Kendeda Fund to expand our efforts to end child marriage in India by supporting groups that empower girls.

In 2013 we funded 14 organizations working on this issue in India, and we will deepen and intensify our investment in the coming years. In 2013 and early 2014, Nirantar, an AJWS grantee, conducted an intensive in-country study of the root causes of child marriage and identified gaps in current interventions to address it. We will use the findings of this study to support innovative, local solutions that will empower girls to make their own choices about their futures.



With AJWS's support, grassroots groups in India teach girls about their rights and seek to end the practice of child marriage.

*Photograph by Mark Tuschman*





## SECURING SAFETY AND HEALTH FOR THE LGBT COMMUNITY

In Honduras, violence against women and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people is at a record high. Unfortunately, most cases go unpunished.



**After years of advocacy on this issue, AJWS grantee Lesbian Network Cattrachas celebrated a victory when the Honduran government reformed its penal code to crack down on these crimes.** For the first time, the law now recognizes murders motivated by hatred of women as “femicide” and violence motivated by intolerance of LGBT people as “hate crimes.”

In Nicaragua, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LBT) women are often harassed and discriminated against when they visit hospitals and health clinics.



**But the situation improved dramatically in 2013 when Grupo Safo, an LGBT rights organization supported by AJWS, persuaded the Department of Health to open the first health clinic for LBT women in Central America.** Nicaraguan LBT women now have a safe place to receive quality health care without fear.

Pen Nol and Chhon Nhoeng are a lesbian and transgender couple living in rural Cambodia. AJWS grantee Rainbow Community Kampuchea works in this community to foster respect for the rights of LGBT people.

*Photograph by Evan Abramson*

# CAMPAINING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

## *We Believe: Standing with Women, Girls and LGBT People Worldwide*

In December 2013, AJWS launched *We Believe*, a national action campaign calling on the U.S. government to help end violence against women and girls; stop hate crimes against LGBT people; and empower girls to end child marriage.

We are advocating for passage of the International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA), mobilizing thousands of supporters to sign petitions, speak out through social media and lobby their Members of Congress to pass this lifesaving legislation.

**We have powerful allies:** at a launch event on Capitol Hill in late 2013, 10 Members of Congress stood alongside AJWS to voice their support, including Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), sponsor of the International Violence Against Women Act.

In 2014 and beyond, our supporters will raise their voices to insist that our government does all it can to ensure that women, girls and LGBT people can live without fear and have the freedom to determine their own futures.



Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, champion of the International Violence Against Women Act, joined AJWS to launch our *We Believe* campaign in December 2013. *Photograph by Mike Kandel*

*"I am proud that advocating for passage of IVAWA is part of AJWS's We Believe campaign. It is a campaign that allows us to combine our beliefs and our actions. And it is committed to the spirit of freedom and justice. Through the work of AJWS and our individual efforts, we will be able to achieve a world where women can succeed."*

—CONGRESSWOMAN JAN SCHAKOWSKY



Women, India. *Photograph by Mark Tuschman*

# DEFENDING ACCESS TO FOOD, LAND AND LIVELIHOODS

2013:

\$6.7 million

156 grantees effecting change



# PROTECTING THE LAND COMMUNITIES DEPEND ON FOR SURVIVAL

In the spring of 2013, Ogiek Peoples' Development Program (OPDP), an AJWS grantee in Kenya, won a historic legal case for land rights.



For decades, the Kenyan government allowed mining and logging companies to plunder Kenya's Mau forest with total disregard for the Ogiek people—a hunter-gatherer community that has called this land home for generations. The Ogiek depend on the land for survival, but they were not consulted before these commercial ventures began to threaten their homes and livelihoods.

To protest, OPDP filed a case with the African Court of Human and People's Rights, and in March 2013, the court ordered the government to stop evicting the Ogiek and other indigenous communities from the forest.

This landmark victory was the first time that the court has intervened to protect the rights of an indigenous community in all of Africa.

.....  
**AJWS is the 5th largest funder of indigenous people worldwide.**

(International Human Rights Funders Group 2014)  
.....

**PHOTOS** Masai villagers in Kenya seek equal rights for Kenya's indigenous people, with the support of AJWS grantee Il'laramatak Community Concerns.

*Photographs by Mark Tuschman*



# REVERSING HUNGER

After more than two years of campaigning for improvements to U.S. international food aid policy through AJWS's *Reverse Hunger* campaign, we helped achieve reforms that could enable U.S. food aid to reach at least half a million more people and support local farmers worldwide.

Together, AJWS, our supporters and other advocates dramatically changed the policy conversation around U.S. food aid. Back in 2008, Congress refused to consider a proposal to reform U.S. food aid policy that would have supported struggling farmers in the developing world. But after AJWS and others campaigned on this issue, food aid reform came to a vote in the House of Representatives for the first time ever in 2013. A record-breaking 203 members of the House supported reforms—just nine votes short of passing.

In early 2014, some of the changes we fought hard for were finally passed into law. President Obama signed the U.S. Farm Bill with the provision that up to \$400 million more in U.S. support could be used over the next five years to purchase food from local farmers close to regions experiencing food shortages. This is a 500 percent increase in such funding.

**LEFT** Southern Farmer Alliance, an AJWS grantee in Thailand, unites farmers to advocate for their land rights.  
*Photograph by James Robert Fuller*

**RIGHT** AJWS supporters ask Congress to support food aid reform in 2012.  
*Photograph by Brendan Hoffman*



## REVERSE HUNGER CAMPAIGN BY THE NUMBERS

**16** advocacy coalition partners

**20** Jewish organizational allies

**19,000** petition signatures

**+ 30,000** actions taken

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Up to **\$400 million** more available to support local farmers and reach **500,000** more people with life sustaining food!





# PROMOTING CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

2013:  
\$19.9 million  
196 grantees effecting change

Buddhist monks protest in support  
of fair and democratic elections in  
Cambodia in December 2013.  
*Photograph by Evan Abramson*

## REVEALING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES TO THE WORLD

In recent years, the people of Burma have made significant progress to overcome more than half a century of brutal authoritarian rule. AJWS grantees contributed to major breakthroughs that resulted in the establishment of a parliament, initial steps toward democratic elections, and some easing of draconian restrictions on basic freedoms. The Burmese government also released many political prisoners—including the iconic democratic opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.



Despite this important progress, daunting challenges remain, including the continued violent persecution of ethnic and religious minorities and signs that the situation may escalate into genocide.

**AJWS grantee Kachin Women's Association of Thailand (KWAT), which works with refugees displaced by conflict in northern Burma, is revealing these abuses to the world. KWAT has gathered extensive evidence that the Burmese military has continued to torture, rape and murder civilians behind the scenes, even as the international community celebrates the country's purported transformation.**

In 2013 KWAT testified before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission of the U.S. Congress, sharing detailed accounts of the atrocities in Burma. KWAT's testimony was so powerful that when Representative Trent Franks of Arizona heard it, he urged his fellow policymakers to support increased U.S. pressure on the Burmese government.

## UPHOLDING CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS

On September 23, 2013, the Dominican Republic's highest court stripped citizenship from 200,000 people of Haitian heritage, including migrants from neighboring Haiti and their descendants born in the Dominican Republic. This community, one of the poorest in the country, had long faced intense discrimination and violence, and this ruling now rendered them stateless. The government has threatened to deport tens of thousands of people who have nowhere to go.

**AJWS grantees have worked to promote the rights of Dominicans of Haitian descent for more than a decade, and they are at the center of local efforts to mitigate the effects of the ruling.**

Movimiento Social-Cultural de los Trabajadores Haitianos (MOSCTHA) has filed more than 42 cases with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to help families fight deportation, and Red de Encuentro Dominicano Haitiano—Jacques Viau (REDH-JV) has built a broad alliance of grassroots organizations advocating for the rights of this oppressed community.

In May of 2014 the Dominican Senate passed a bill that will allow some people whose citizenship had been revoked to apply for legal residence. Because the bill will benefit just a minority of those affected and does not grant them full citizenship, AJWS grantees continue to advocate for a just resolution to this crisis and work to secure the full array of rights and freedoms for Dominico-Haitians.



# DEFENDING ACTIVISTS FROM ATTACK

In 2013 a Mexican human rights organization ensured that soldiers who raped and tortured indigenous leaders would be put behind bars.

Four years ago, AJWS grantee Tlachinollan Center for Support to Indigenous Peoples of the Mountain won a precedent-setting case before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on behalf of Inés Fernandez Ortega and Valentina Rosendo Cantú—human rights defenders who were raped and tortured by Mexican soldiers in 2002. The court ordered the Mexican government to hold the perpetrators accountable in the civilian court system, and at the end of 2013 and in early 2014, this crime was tried and finally brought to justice.



As the result of Tlachinollan's advocacy, the four military officers responsible for the rapes were convicted and imprisoned for torture, rape and abuse of authority.

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AJWS is the #1 funder of safety and security for human rights activists worldwide.

(International Human Rights Funders Group 2014)



Dozens of human rights activists have been attacked and killed in Central America in recent years. Here, Mexican activist Armando de la Cruz speaks to a delegation of journalists and human rights organizations convened by AJWS grantees to investigate such crimes.

*Photograph by Evan Abramson*

# SUPPORTING PEACEMAKERS

For three decades, Senegalese activists have worked to stop a violent conflict in the country's Casamance region that has claimed thousands of lives and displaced as many as 60,000 people. AJWS funds 10 local organizations, mostly led by women, who are working to stop the bloodshed.



**One organization, USOFORAL, organized thousands of women and succeeded in stopping the fighting in their villages. In recognition of this accomplishment, in 2013 the Women's World Summit Foundation awarded USOFORAL the prestigious annual Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life.**

**The women of Casamance are now leading a movement to end the conflict in the entire region.** Plateforme des Femmes pour la Paix en Casamance (PFPC)—a coalition of 170 women's organizations co-founded by USOFORAL and funded by AJWS—has mobilized Senegalese President Macky Sall to take up this cause, and he promised them he would broker a lasting peace. Earlier this year President Sall invited PFPC to serve as a mediator in the upcoming peace talks between the government and the rebel forces.

In April 2014, one of the rebel groups declared a ceasefire “to give a chance to ongoing peace negotiations over Casamance.” **Thanks to the women’s peace movement, PFPC will be at the table when the details of lasting peace in the region will be negotiated in the coming years.**

*“The women of Casamance carry the torch of peace; you must cross all rural communities and mobilize and sensitize women, listen to their experiences, their voices, so that they can participate in peace in Casamance...*

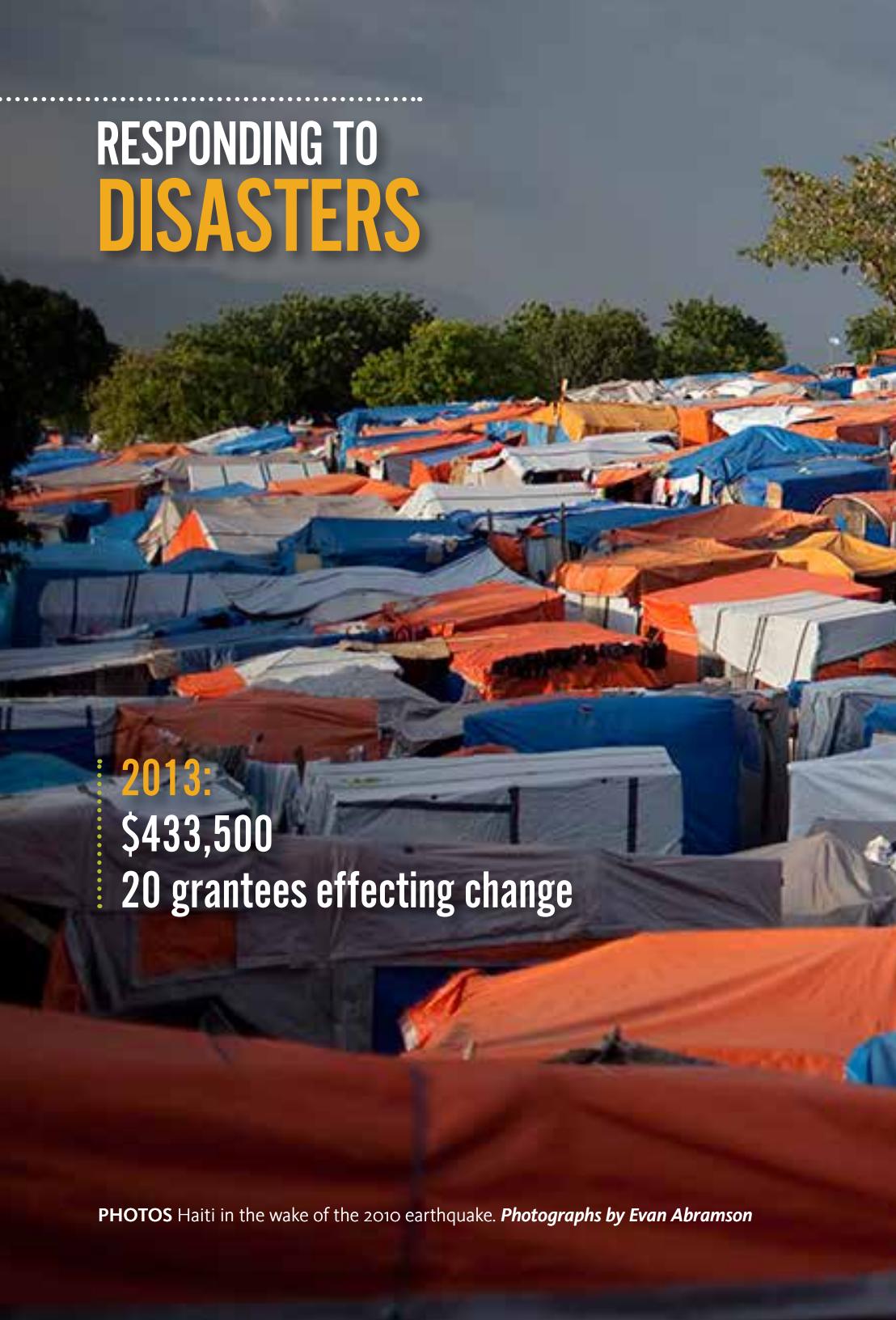
*I am ready to support [AJWS grantee] PFPC...”*

—SENEGALESE PRESIDENT MACKY SALL



AJWS grantee USOFORAL stages a protest for peace in Dakar, Senegal.  
*Photograph courtesy of USOFORAL*

# RESPONDING TO DISASTERS



**2013:  
\$433,500  
20 grantees effecting change**

## AIDING SURVIVORS OF THE PHILIPPINES TYPHOON

On November 8, 2013, Typhoon Haiyan tore through the Philippines, leaving an estimated 6,000 people dead and more than four million homeless. AJWS mobilized immediately to send aid to the hardest-hit areas and most vulnerable people, and our supporters gave generously to help survivors of this tragedy.

In late 2013 and early 2014 AJWS raised over \$1 million for this disaster. To date, we have distributed more than \$900,000 to 11 Filipino and international relief organizations that are helping to save lives and rebuild the devastated country.

**PHILIPPINES RELIEF (since 2013)**  
11 grantees | \$900,000 in grants

One of these grantees, Center for Empowerment and Resource Development, has provided relief assistance to more than 2,000 people in eight coastal villages, enabling survivors to rebuild their homes and repair the fishing boats that they depend on to feed their families and earn a living. The Center for Trade Union and Human Rights (CTUHR) used AJWS's funding to distribute food, tents, solar generators, toys and school supplies to 2,411 families in hard-hit areas. For most of these families, this aid was the first help they received after the disaster.

Nearly a year after the typhoon, AJWS's grantees continue to aid survivors. We are using lessons learned from decades of disaster-relief grantmaking to support communities to overcome the profound challenges they face and protect human rights in the wake of this disaster.



PHOTOS Haiti in the wake of the 2010 earthquake. *Photographs by Evan Abramson*

# SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN POST-EARTHQUAKE HAITI

Nearly five years after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti, billions of aid dollars have been spent, and yet much of the devastation remains. A cholera outbreak spread inadvertently by UN peacekeepers is still raging. Nearly 200,000 people whose homes were destroyed still sleep beneath flimsy plastic tarps. Even these temporary shelters are not secure: land owners have forcibly, and often violently, removed displaced people; and in several cases the camps—and their residents—have been set on fire.

**But positive change is happening in Haiti, and it is coming largely from grassroots interventions. AJWS has distributed \$6.1 million to 66 community-based groups engaged in emergency relief and long-term reconstruction efforts, and these funds are directly reaching people most in need.**

In 2013 AJWS's grantees protested evictions from displacement camps and taught people about their rights so that they could advocate for themselves. In rural areas, grantees have helped increase local food production to combat Haiti's ongoing hunger crisis and reduce reliance on foreign food aid. In Port-au-Prince they are investigating and exposing corruption among Haiti's leaders and insisting that the government keep its promises to rebuild and act in the interests of the people.

**In the United States, AJWS leads a 30-member working group of Haiti advocates. With these allies, we have helped secure \$2.8 billion of additional relief funding from the U.S. and cancellation of more than \$700 million of Haiti's debt.**



In 2013, AJWS staff helped Congress craft the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act of 2013, which will help ensure that American aid to Haiti is distributed responsibly and effectively to benefit the Haitian people. The bill was passed by both chambers of Congress in July 2014. We also led a national advocacy effort to pressure the United Nations to take responsibility for introducing cholera to Haiti. While the UN has yet to admit responsibility, it is funding and coordinating some initial efforts to respond to the epidemic.

## HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF (since 2010)

**\$6.4 million** raised  
**\$6.1 million** spent (to date)  
**66** grantees  
**30** advocacy coalition partners

## A HISTORY OF EMERGENCY RELIEF

1998-1999	Hurricane Mitch in Central America	\$607,010
2004-Present	Darfur Genocide	\$5.8 million
2004-2011	Indian Ocean Tsunami	\$10.8 million
2010-Present	Haiti Earthquake	\$6.1 million
2013-Present	Philippines Typhoon	\$900,000

# MOBILIZING OUR ACTIVISTS



AJWS Policy Summit 2014. *Photograph by Jeff Zorabedian*

# TAKING ACTION IN THE U.S.

In 2013 AJWS engaged more than 6,500 activists to campaign for global justice issues.

In August 2013, we launched the Global Justice Fellowship, a year-long program designed to train influential Jewish opinion leaders to become powerful advocates for U.S. policies that will bolster human rights and end poverty in the developing world. To kick off their year of learning, organizing and activism, our inaugural group of fellows spent a week in Mexico learning from AJWS grantees who are organizing their communities. To date, AJWS has engaged seven groups of fellows, including more than 120 Jewish leaders from around the country. They have become leaders in AJWS's campaign in their cities and on Capitol Hill.

We also launched Action Teams and Leadership Councils in major cities around the country. Comprised of our most passionate activists and supporters, these teams have mobilized their communities to support the *We Believe* campaign and promote human rights worldwide.

*"We view AJWS as our partner in moving this agenda forward... The timing is perfect and now we must work to make ending violence against women and girls part of the DNA in societies around the world."*

—CARLA KOPPEL, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER FOR USAID



Tina Tchen, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady, addresses participants at the AJWS Policy Summit. *Photograph by Jeff Zorabedian*

## RAISING OUR VOICES ON CAPITOL HILL

In 2013 AJWS activists and staff held nearly 140 advocacy meetings at Congressional offices on Capitol Hill and in local districts.

In May of 2014, nearly 150 Global Justice Fellows, Action Team members and other AJWS supporters descended on Capitol Hill for our first annual AJWS Policy Summit in Washington, D.C. Participants learned advocacy and organizing skills and then met with 85 Congressional offices, sending a strong message that AJWS and its supporters believe our government must do its part to pass the International Violence Against Women Act.

Keynote speakers at the Summit included Tina Tchen, who is Assistant to the President, Chief of Staff to the First Lady and Executive Director of the Obama Administration's Council on Women and Girls; Carla Koppel, Chief Strategy Officer for USAID; Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD); and Archana Dwivedi, deputy director of AJWS grantee Nirantar, in India.

# EVALUATING OUR IMPACT

## HOW DO WE KNOW WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

**Measuring the success of our investments to promote human rights and end poverty in the developing world requires a deep and nuanced examination of social change.** Sometimes the movements we support yield legislative results, such as new laws that uphold the rights of poor and marginalized people. Sometimes our grantees effect societal change, successfully reducing prejudice or discrimination. Sometimes they build powerful movements by mobilizing and training local people to speak out and overcome the challenges they face.

**AJWS has long been committed to learning from our investments and measuring their impact.** In 2013 we created a new division dedicated to strategic learning, research and evaluation. This team is taking the lead in evaluating our grantees' progress toward their goals and strengthening our investments as we learn more about what works best in each context.

To understand the impact we've had over time, we launched five case studies in 2013—in Bolivia, India, Kenya, Peru and Senegal—to investigate how AJWS's support of social change organizations has contributed to the fulfillment of human rights. In India, we are focused on learning all we can to inform our intensified initiative to end child marriage, and we are sharing that knowledge with other funders and organizations around the world.

Here in the U.S., working with the Aspen Institute and other experts, we monitor and learn from our campaign activities and are currently developing a framework for measuring the success of our Global Justice Fellowship. We are using our findings to

maximize our ability to mobilize American Jews and others to advocate for U.S. laws and policies that will contribute to realizing human rights and ending poverty in the developing world.

## OUR SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE APPROACH TO RESEARCH, LEARNING AND EVALUATION:

- **CREDIBILITY:** When we conduct research in the countries where we make grants, we collaborate with local organizations that have credibility in their communities and countries and among significant international partners.
- **USABILITY:** We communicate our findings in ways that are relevant and clear to AJWS's key audiences, including government officials, journalists, and other funders engaged in human rights philanthropy.
- **PARTICIPATORY METHODS:** We seek meaningful input from local people to determine topics of inquiry, conduct interviews, analyze data and provide feedback on our findings. In this way, our research helps both AJWS and the communities we support learn from the successes and challenges we collectively identify.
- **INCLUSIVITY:** We seek a broad spectrum of perspectives in our research, including those of marginalized groups such as ethnic and religious minorities; women, girls and LGBT people; and indigenous communities that face threats to the land and resources they depend upon.
- **SUSTAINABILITY:** In evaluating the impact of our investments, we seek to identify both short-term gains and progress toward the lasting fulfillment of human rights.

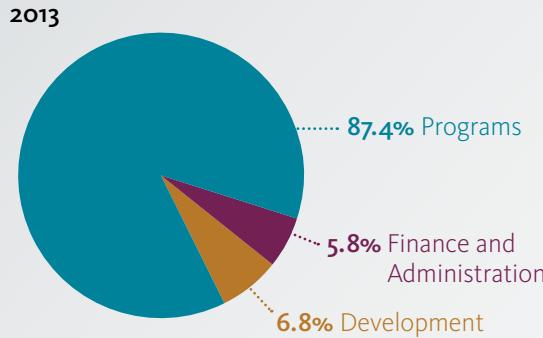


In Liberia, women led the peace movement that brought an end to the country's civil war, thanks to the efforts of organizations and movements like AJWS grantee Women in Peacebuilding Network. *Photograph by Peewee Flomoku*



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## EXPENDITURES



Since 2004 AJWS has received an "A" rating from the American Institute of Philanthropy and a top rating of four stars from Charity Navigator. AJWS also meets all 20 of the Better Business Bureau's standards for charity accountability.

The Statements of Financial Position and Activities were derived from the 2013 audited financial statements of American Jewish World Service, Inc. A printed copy of the audited financial statements and form 990 for 2013 are available upon request. Our independent auditor is McGladrey LLP.

American Jewish World Service, Inc.

## Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2013

(with summarized comparative financial information as of December 31, 2012)

	2013	2012
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$18,075,754	\$14,655,990
Contributions receivable, net	20,318,990	5,557,988
Investments	7,479,130	7,235,243
Prepaid expenses and other assets	353,505	424,250
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization of \$3,175,140 and \$2,725,274, respectively	1,234,096	1,455,477
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$47,461,475</b>	<b>\$29,328,948</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<i>Liabilities:</i>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$927,632	\$1,151,585
Grants payable	14,516,355	10,615,260
Deferred rent	262,840	275,531
Unearned revenue	91,876	56,069
Charitable gift annuity obligation	216,372	255,312
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$16,015,075</b>	<b>\$12,353,757</b>
<i>Net assets:</i>		
Unrestricted:		
Undesignated	1,362,143	403,069
Unrestricted designated for donor-advised funds	788,221	2,208,477
Unrestricted designated for long-term investment	2,121,200	2,037,438
Board-designated for reserve funds	4,443,861	3,858,331
<b>Total Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>8,715,425</b>	<b>8,507,315</b>
<b>Total Restricted Net Assets</b>	<b>22,730,975</b>	<b>8,467,876</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>31,446,400</b>	<b>16,975,191</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$47,461,475</b>	<b>\$29,328,948</b>

American Jewish World Service, Inc.

**Statement of Activities for the year ended December 31, 2013**

(with summarized comparative financial information for the year ended December 31, 2012)

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	2012
<b>REVENUE</b>				
<i>Contributions and Revenue:</i>				
Individual	\$12,837,865	\$16,211,395	\$29,049,260	\$27,271,249
Donor-advised fund	25,000,000	-	25,000,000	20,599,959
Bequest	37,699	-	37,699	125,561
Foundations and corporations	520,887	18,156,082	18,676,969	2,418,934
Special event revenue, net of expenses of \$12,553 in 2013 and \$108,784 in 2012	5,640	-	5,640	71,184
Donated services	60,304	-	60,304	444,593
Investment income, net of expenses of \$9,240 in 2013 and \$8,396 in 2012	241,005	5,222	246,227	190,602
Study tours and miscellaneous revenue	327,039	4,741	331,780	558,744
Net assets released from restrictions	20,114,341	(20,114,341)	-	-
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND REVENUE</b>	<b>59,144,780</b>	<b>14,263,099</b>	<b>73,407,879</b>	<b>51,680,826</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
<i>Program Services Expenses:</i>				
International	44,282,024	-	44,282,024	37,766,051
National	4,350,395	-	4,350,395	6,666,207
Communication	1,986,130	-	1,986,130	2,234,469
Strategic learning, research and evaluation	905,883	-	905,883	2,308
<b>Total Program Services Expenses</b>	<b>51,524,432</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>51,524,432</b>	<b>46,669,035</b>
<i>Supporting Services Expenses:</i>				
Finance and administration	3,412,808	-	3,412,808	3,842,370
Development	3,999,430	-	3,999,430	3,757,490
<b>Total Supporting Services Expenses</b>	<b>7,412,238</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,412,238</b>	<b>7,599,860</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>58,936,670</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>58,936,670</b>	<b>54,268,895</b>
Change in net assets	208,110	14,263,099	14,471,209	(2,588,069)
Beginning net assets	8,507,315	8,467,876	16,975,191	19,563,260
<b>ENDING NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 8,715,425</b>	<b>\$ 22,730,975</b>	<b>\$ 31,446,400</b>	<b>\$ 16,975,191</b>

# TURNING GENEROSITY INTO HOPE, ACTION AND CHANGE

**Our supporters are committed to making dignity and human rights a reality for all.**

Every story in this report began with a gift. Whether that gift was your activism or your donation, it set in motion a chain of events that is having a profound impact on people around the world.

Your contribution may have helped endangered ethnic minorities in Burma speak out against the rising threat of genocide. Or it may have prevented an indigenous family in Nicaragua from being evicted from the farmland it depends on for survival. If you added your voice to our We Believe campaign, your action helped ensure that U.S. foreign aid does more to stop violence against women, girls and LGBT people worldwide.

As AJWS approaches its 30th year of striving to end poverty and promote human rights in the developing world, we are ever grateful to our community of supporters.

**With your help, we will continue to turn hope into action and action into change.**

In Nicaragua, local leader Bernarda Martinez speaks at a workshop held by AJWS grantee Colectivo Gaviota to teach local indigenous judges and women leaders about laws protecting women from violence.

*Photograph by Evan Abramson*



A close-up photograph of a young refugee woman and her baby. The woman, on the right, is wearing a bright blue headscarf and a blue patterned shawl. She has a warm, joyful smile. Her baby, on the left, has dark skin and is wearing a grey hoodie. The baby is also smiling broadly, showing their teeth. They are both looking directly at the camera. The background is blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting.

A young refugee woman and her baby find a safe haven in Nairobi with AJWS grantee Heshima Kenya. The organization provides housing, education and skills training to young women and girls who have escaped from conflict or persecution in their countries.

*Photograph by Mark Tuschman*

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**2013-2014**

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Danielle Berrin  
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Miryam Glazer  
Jonathan Klein  
Diane Levitt  
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Margalit Rosenthal  
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Flori Schutzer  
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David Eber  
Hadas (Dasi) Fruchter  
David Krantz  
Justin Lerner  
Aaron Levi  
Gregory D. Metzger  
Ariel Naveh  
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Andrew Terkel  
Tiferet (Tiffy) Unterman  
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Bess Wohlner

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Leah Price  
Amy Randel  
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Sarah Young  
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**2014-2015**

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Debra Shore  
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Eliezer Lehmann  
Rachel Marks  
Salem Pearce  
Rachel Rothstein  
Juliana Schnur  
Marcia Tilchin  
Ari Weber

## ACTION TEAMS

AJWS recognizes the hundreds of volunteer leaders who mobilize their communities in support of AJWS's campaigns. These changemakers are on the frontlines of AJWS's work to support U.S. policies that promote human rights in the developing world.

New York Action Team  
Los Angeles Action Team  
San Francisco Action Team  
Washington, D.C. Action Team  
National Activist Network

These Global Justice Fellows from Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco joined nearly 150 AJWS supporters from around the country on Capitol Hill for the AJWS Policy Summit in May 2014 (see story, page 29).

*Photograph by Jeff Zorabedian*



# LEADERSHIP



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---

<sup>\*</sup>Past chair

<sup>#</sup>Founder

<sup>o</sup>Term-limited board members who departed AJWS in 2013

In Kenya, AJWS grantee Il'laramatak Community Concerns supports efforts by the Maasai community—particularly women and girls like these—to claim and protect their land rights.

*Photograph by Mark Tuschman*

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Megan Thomas  
*Guatemala*  
Charles Mukandirwa Wetemwami  
*Democratic Republic of Congo*

We express deep gratitude to former members of our staff and board who contributed greatly to AJWS's success in 2013 and 2014.

AJWS staff as of July 31, 2014. Due to security risks related to human rights work, not all of our international programs staff and in-country consultants appear on this list.

Ugandan youth call on their government to share the profits of the country's oil exploration with its citizens. Their activism is supported by AJWS grantee National Association of Professional Environmentalists, which promotes the sustainable management of natural resources for the benefit of all Ugandans.

*Photograph by Evan Abramson*



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*This report was written and produced by Leah Kaplan Robins and designed by Elizabeth Leih.*

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**FRONT COVER** In Mexico, Lucia, Agustina and Emma Lopez run a successful livestock business with support from AJWS grantee Unión de Comunidades Indígenas de la Zona Norte del Istmo (UCIZONI).

*Photograph by Evan Abramson*

**BACK COVER** In the spring of 2013 AJWS grantee Ogiek Peoples' Development Program (OPDP) helped this woman's community win a historic legal case for the land rights of indigenous people in Kenya (see story, page 19).

*Photograph by Mark Tuschman*



In Mexico, Irene Martinez Gonzalez has saved her family farm with support from AJWS grantee Flor y Canto. In a region where commercial farming, mining and tourism are sapping the local water supply and forcing small farmers off their land, the organization teaches water-saving techniques and supports indigenous people's advocacy for their water rights. *Photograph by Evan Abramson*





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