



American Jewish World Service (AJWS) is an international development organization motivated by Judaism's imperative to pursue justice. AJWS is dedicated to alleviating poverty, hunger and disease among the people of the developing world regardless of race, religion or nationality. AJWS fosters civil society, sustainable development and human rights for all people, while promoting the values and responsibilities of global citizenship within the Jewish community.

Established in 1985 by a group of rabbis, community leaders, businesspeople and scholars, AJWS is one of America's fastest growing Jewish non-profits. Over the past three years, its annual budget has grown from \$10 million to \$30 million and it has cultivated a network of more than 24,000 activists passionate about advancing social justice around the world.

AJWS has also been widely recognized for its high-quality management and efficiency. For the seventh year in a row, Charity Navigator, an independent evaluator of more than 5,300 non-profits, has awarded AJWS its highest possible rating, four stars. Only one other non-profit has earned seven straight four-star ratings.

The AJWS core program focuses on grantmaking to grassroots NGOs in the developing world; operating several life-changing volunteer programs in the field; advocating for human rights in the public policy arena; and, through development of a wide-range of educational resources, engaging the American Jewish community to think critically about its role in global society.

Grants

The essential component of AJWS' work is the long-term partnerships it creates with grassroots organizations in the developing world. AJWS' grantmaking supports organizations that undertake a holistic approach to community development. These groups design and implement projects that creatively and effectively address economic development, education, healthcare and sustainable agriculture.

Initiatives that AJWS supports also have strong components of strengthening civil society and/or promoting women's empowerment. Fundamentally, AJWS' grantmaking links human rights and sustainable development. AJWS currently awards more than \$15 million per year and supports grassroots development work in 36 countries.

Volunteer Service

AJWS volunteer service programs are designed to increase the impact of its grantmaking and to create a cadre of global social justice leaders. Each year, more than 400 hundred volunteers of all ages contribute to the work of AJWS project partners in Africa, Asia and the Americas, advancing the quality of life in developing communities.

AJWS operates five distinct volunteer programs. These include:

- AJWS Volunteer Corps, which places professional Jewish women and men on volunteer assignments with local NGOs in developing countries;
- Volunteer Summer, which sends groups of young Jewish adults, between ages 16 and 25, to volunteer for seven weeks with an AJWS partner organization in rural areas in the developing world;
- AJWS World Partners Fellowship, which is awarded to recent college graduates and young professionals who wish to volunteer with an NGO, live independently in a developing country and participate in a peer-learning community;
- The AJWS Alternative Breaks Program, which offers one-to-two-week service opportunities to college students in partnership with campus-based organizations, such as Hillel; and
- AJWS Delegations Program, which enables participants to experience grassroots development and focus on the connections between social justice, service and Judaism. AJWS Delegations run in partnership with Jewish organizations, such as synagogues and JCCs Advocacy.

Advocacy

In recent years, AJWS has taken part in and led grassroots campaigns advocating for social justice in the areas of human rights, education, healthcare and economic development.

AJWS efforts have produced the following successes:

- Actively lobbying for state-level Sudan divestment legislation, which is now law in 21 states, and a federal divestment bill, which the United States House of Representatives passed by an overwhelming majority and is now under consideration by the United States Senate.
- The passage by Congress of the Assistance for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act, which includes funding for school food programs, access to basic education through the elimination of school fees, and the protection of

inheritance rights for children. AJWS, as part of the Global Action for Children Coalition, played a major role in lobbying for this law.

- The international human rights victory by AJWS project partner, the Movement of Haitian and Dominican-Haitian Women (MUDHA), which won a case against the government of the Dominican Republic in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. As a result of this victory, Haitian-born children in the Dominican Republic now have a right to birth certificates and education.

Education

AJWS' educational work encourages critical thinking about global issues and promotes meaningful and active engagement by North American Jews in Tikkun Olam—repairing the world. The education initiative focuses on the production of resources, such as Bar Mitzvah and Darfur CD-ROMS, high school and adult education modules, and social-media tools such as podcasts.

AJWS' education department also trains group leaders and develops weekly Torah and holiday commentaries that frame Jewish text in the context of global social justice.

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