



forward together

American Jewish World Services (AJWS)

AJWS was founded in 1985 by American Jews to help the poorest and most oppressed people throughout the globe. The organization is committed to ending poverty and promoting human rights in the developing world. **A portion of every Milwaukee Jewish Federation Annual Campaign dollar supports AJWS as part of our global investment in caring for the needs of the Jewish people.**



519
Social Justice
Organizations
at Work

In 2020, AJWS supported **519 organizations in 18 countries** throughout Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. Amidst the pandemic, AJWS helped communities meet basic needs and stop the spread of infection of Covid, while still continuing its support organizations fighting for sexual health and rights, civil and political rights, and humanitarian aid.

Every year, **15 million girls under age 18 enter into child marriages**. India struggles with the highest rate of child marriages – 47% of girls in India marry before reaching adulthood. The rates are even higher in rural communities.



140,000
Girls
Trained

AJWS responded by funding 3,500 girls' collectives, which provide safe spaces for girls to connect with their peers. The collectives have reached more than 140,000 Indian girls through a focus on leadership skills. These girls are empowered to challenge family and societal limitations and pursue education and careers. Ultimately, the goal is for girls to determine their own future free from exterior pressure.



10 Year
Minimum
Sentence

For years in Senegal, courts considered the crime of rape the equivalent of a misdemeanor, and what few convictions were made resulted in lenient sentences. An association of women lawyers, an AJWS grantee, refused to let past injustices dictate the future. The lawyers organized demonstrations and grassroots efforts to raise awareness in parliament for stricter penalties. Their voices were heard, and parliament passed a new law unanimously. **Now, rape convictions carry a minimum of a 10-year sentence and a maximum of life in prison.**



2022
Annual Campaign
MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION



In 2017, Guatemalan government security forces violently displaced the community of Laguna Larga. Forced to flee, families have been living in a makeshift camp for the last four years with minimal access to water, food, and health care. AJWS has supported the community in their ongoing legal fight against the government to reclaim their ancestral land, AJWS has committed to stand by the community until the land is returned. An AJWS grantee in Mexico has also come to the community's aid. **To date, more than 111 displaced families have received food and medicine from their Mexican neighbor.**



Makeshift encampment in Laguna Larga, Guatemala, where displaced families have been living since 2017.

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