



ASYLUM ACCESS ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

**LIVE.
MOVE.
WORK.
REBUILD.**



OUR MISSION & VISION

Asylum Access believes all refugees deserve a fair chance at a new life. All over the world, we challenge barriers that keep refugees from **living** safely, **moving** freely, **working** and attending school -- because when refugees can **rebuild** their lives, nations thrive.

LIVE. MOVE. WORK. REBUILD.

“

In Africa, Asia and Latin America, we've proven we can put refugees back in control of their lives and give them the power to contribute to their host communities.

We invite you to join us on this journey. ”

*Emily Arnold-Fernández
Executive Director
Asylum Access*



Photo by Michelle Arévalo-Carpenter

WHERE WE WORK



UNITED STATES

OAKLAND

- » Global headquarters

MEXICO

MEXICO CITY / TENOSIQUE PALENQUE / ACAYUCAN

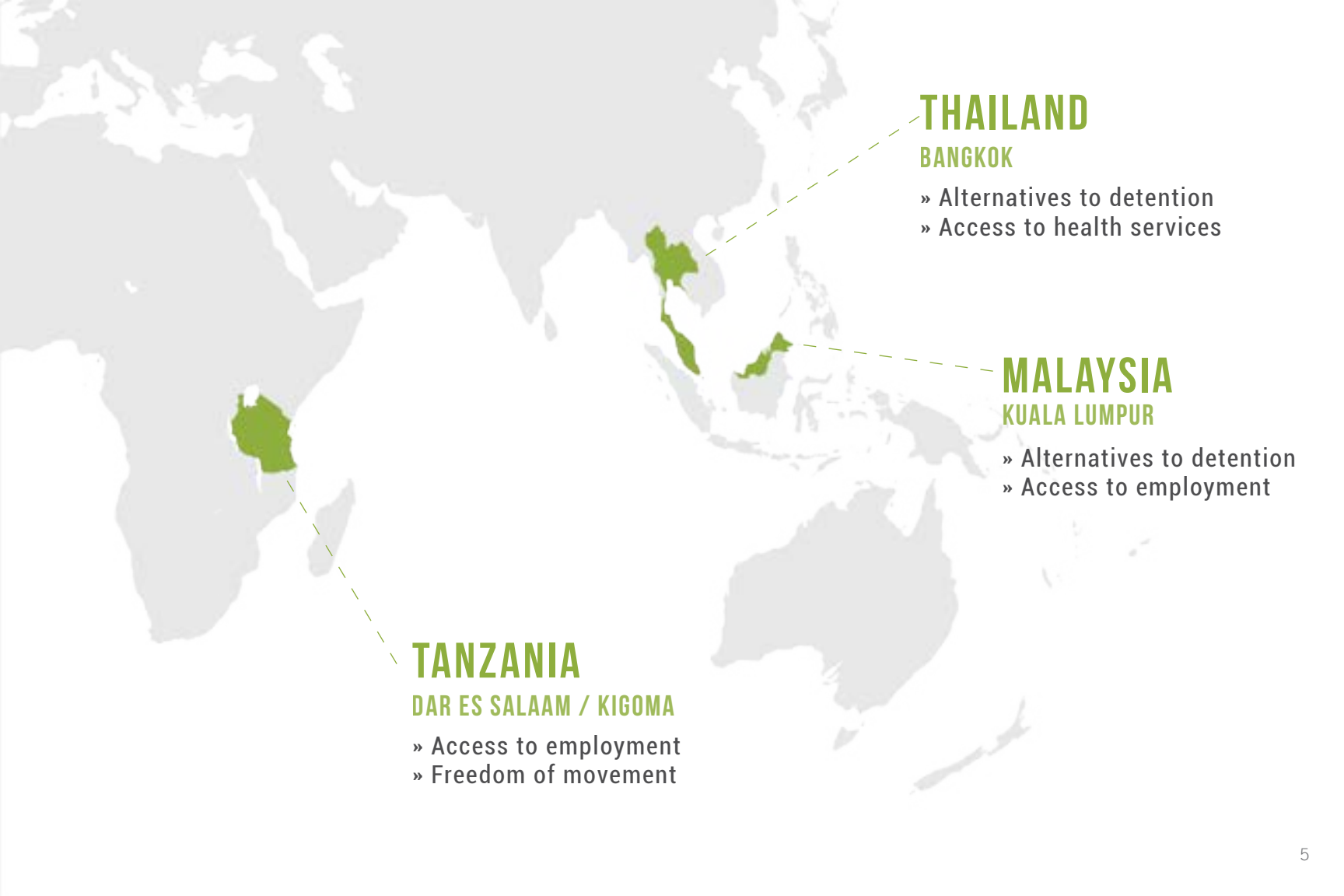
- » Alternatives to detention
- » Access to asylum

ECUADOR

QUITO / STO DOMINGO / GUAYAQUIL / IBARRA TULCAN / LAGO AGRIO / ESMERALDAS SAN LORENZO

- » Latin America regional hub
- » Access to employment
- » Access to full protections

78 STAFF
82 VOLUNTEERS
17 LOCATIONS



THAILAND

BANGKOK

- » Alternatives to detention
- » Access to health services

MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR

- » Alternatives to detention
- » Access to employment

TANZANIA

DAR ES SALAAM / KIGOMA

- » Access to employment
- » Freedom of movement

A woman wearing a black hijab and a patterned black and white top is shown in profile, looking down at a document she is holding with both hands. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

OUR IMPACT IN 2016

We aim to shift the global refugee response from endless aid to agency and participation - so refugees can make choices about their lives and participate in their new communities.

This year, we advocated for this vision at:

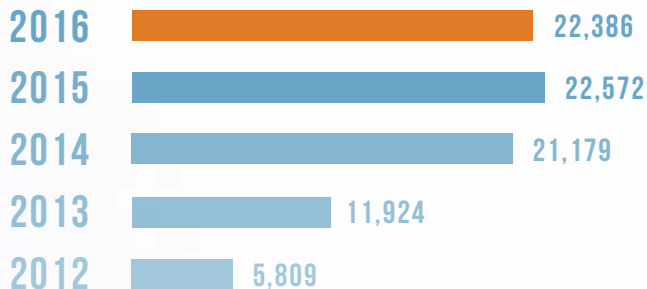
- President Obama's Historic Leaders' Summit on Refugees
- UN General Assembly Summit on Refugees
- World Humanitarian Summit
- Universal Periodic Reviews for Thailand and Tanzania

WE REACHED
22,386
REFUGEES ACROSS
5 COUNTRIES

WITH LEGAL AID &
COMMUNITY LEGAL
EMPOWERMENT

&

WE'VE IMPACTED
2M+ REFUGEES
OVER 11 YEARS WITH
POLICY ADVOCACY



35,680
12,441
refugees received
Know-Your-Rights training

423
refugee women increased
their confidence, emotional security
and mutual support through
women's empowerment groups

17,397
refugees received
legal information,
advice and representation

620
refugees collaborated
to build collective strategies
that address their
critical needs

LIVE!



Photo by Sandra ten Zijthoff

Yousuf and his family were forced to flee their home in Pakistan due to religious persecution. When they arrived in Bangkok, their youngest child began to suffer from a rare autoimmune disorder that made her sensitive to everything except her mother's milk and watermelon. Finding a specialist proved to be difficult because of the discrimination they faced, the language barrier and their inability to cover costs.

Yousuf sought help at Asylum Access Thailand and was put in touch with a doctor willing to treat their daughter. Due to her condition, their case was fast tracked and they were approved for resettlement much sooner than expected.

Mike and his partner, Tom, come from a country where homosexuality is punishable by law and sexual minorities are stigmatized by society.

Other gay men were being arrested in places they frequented and they became so scared it was impossible to see each other. They also began receiving threatening messages from an extremist group.

That is when they decided to flee the country and move to Malaysia on a tourist visa.

In Malaysia, they are surrounded by others from their own country and must hide their relationship. They are also often stopped by traffic police that demand bribes and threaten to send them to immigration.

A friend told Mike about Asylum Access Malaysia and encouraged him to go there after Mike's visa had expired.

Mike worked with a lawyer to apply for protection through the UNHCR and, now, he's in the resettlement pipeline with the hope of moving to a country where he can openly be with his partner.



Photo by Sandra ten Zijthoff

MEXICO »

The Hospitality Route is creating communities across Mexico where refugees can access safety and rights instead of arrest, detention and deportation.



1,874

URBAN REFUGEES IN MALAYSIA WERE INFORMED ON THEIR OPTIONS & STEPS TO APPLY FOR ASYLUM.



« THAILAND

The Thai government responded favorably to five recommendations in our joint UN Submission. Advocacy efforts to ensure changes occur are underway in coalition with our partners.

THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

GLOBAL »

We secured a UN legal decision that refugees are workers who deserve just and favorable working conditions.



TANZANIA »

We initiated an office in Kigoma in response to an influx of +100,000 Burundian refugees.



GLOBAL »

Refugees now have a right to legal counsel in UN-run proceedings that decide their fate.



Karina Sarmiento
Asylum Access Latin America

« LATIN AMERICA

We united with 30+ civil society organizations to create the Regional Working Group for the Brazil Plan of Action, which seeks to maintain the highest protection standards internationally and regionally.

3,521

REFUGEES IN MEXICO
REACHED THROUGH
LEGAL AID & RIGHTS
EMPOWERMENT.



GLOBAL »

Our Refugee Rights Toolkit and mentorship program is now supporting refugee rights leaders in Indonesia, Cameroon, Trinidad and Tobago, Morocco and India.



MEXICO »

Executive Director Emily Arnold-Fernández received the Equality and Nondiscrimination Award from Mexico's National Council to Prevent Discrimination.



« MALAYSIA

Since launching last year, we have reached nearly 2,000 refugees and are developing strategies surrounding advocacy on arrest and detention issues.



Upon receiving death threats in her home country of Colombia, Isabel fled to Ecuador and found employment as a housekeeper.

She heard about Asylum Access Ecuador after she joined the Association for Paid Homeworkers in the hopes of finding a new job. Isabel knew that obtaining legal status would improve her chances of finding work and made an appointment.

At AAE, Isabel learned about her own rights, worked with legal advocates to obtain legal status and attended regular meetings that provide emotional support to refugee women.

"In the women's groups, I de-stress and open up. I listen to other experiences and feel like I'm part of a family instead of feeling isolated from the world."

As she was learning new skills, AAE helped to formalize Isabel's new job with a contract that ensures that she can access Ecuadorian social security services.

Today, Isabel regularly attends women's group meetings and has recently shared her experience with others at an event for refugee women in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

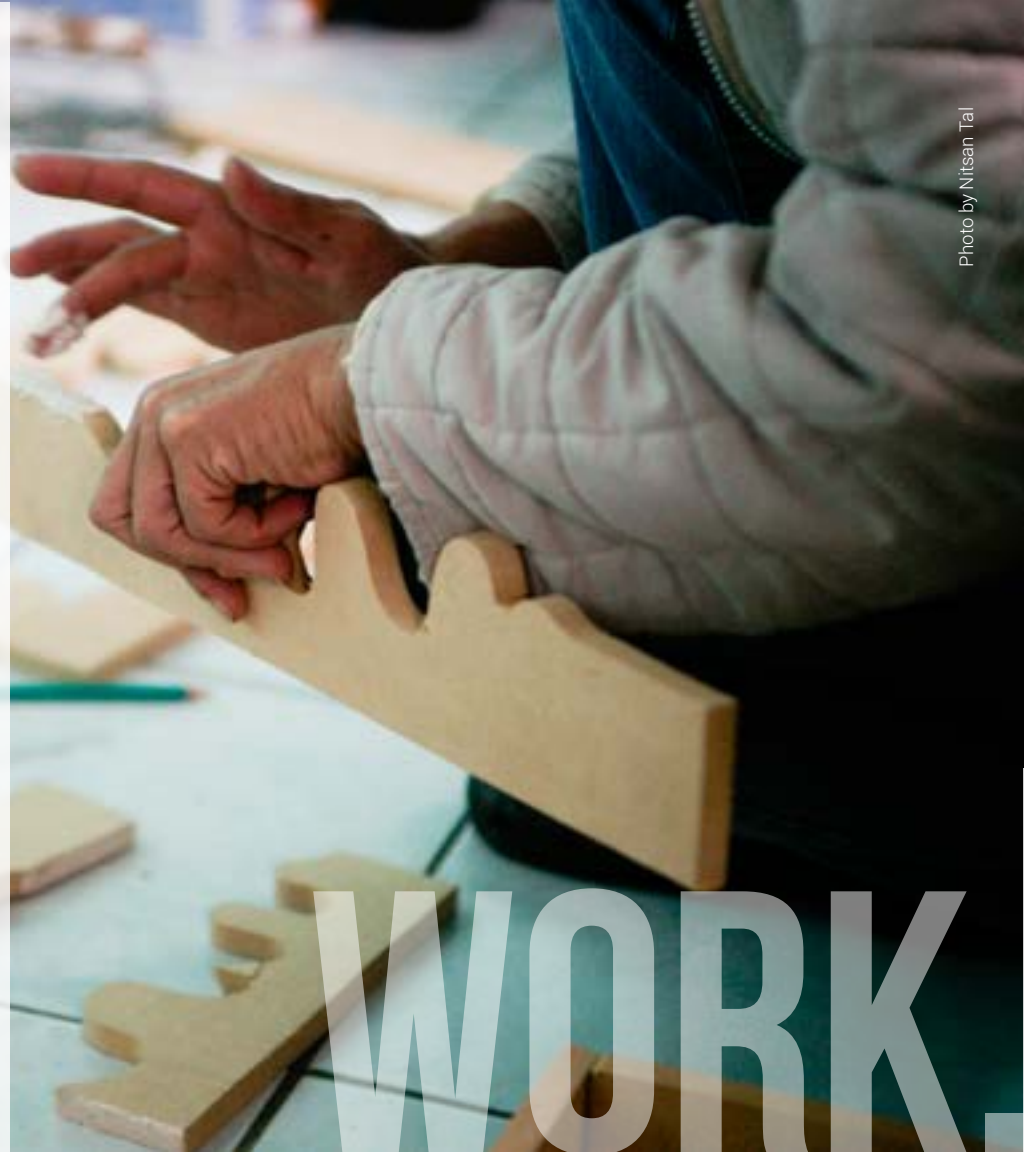


Photo by Nitsan Tal

REBUILD.

Photo by Michelle Arcvalo-Carpenter

Neema fled her home in the Democratic Republic of Congo following relentless persecution due to her husband's involvement in the country's complicated politics. Before she could escape, she was sexually assaulted by her persecutors and witnessed the harrowing death of her three children – a loss from which she may never recover.

When Neema arrived in Tanzania as an unregistered refugee, she faced constant risk of arrest and detention along with accumulated psychological and physical distress. She sought assistance at Asylum Access Tanzania, where our team helped her obtain refugee status and receive integrated health care, including counseling support. Today, Neema has found peace in Tanzania and is slowly but surely adapting to a new reality.

OUR SUPPORTERS

JULY 2015 - JUNE 2016

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to all of our supporters for helping us make refugee rights a reality this year. We could not have done it without your help.

\$100,000 and up

Foundation for a Just Society
The John D. and Catherine T.
MacArthur Foundation
Sigrid Rausing Trust
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
US Department of State,
Bureau of Population, Refugees,
and Migration

\$25,000 - \$99,999

Eucalyptus Foundation
Heising Simons Foundation
Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation
National Endowment for Democracy
Silicon Valley Social Venture Fund (SV2)

Tinker Foundation
UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
UNICEF
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Younger Family Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

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Women's Refugee Commission

\$1,000 - \$9,999

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Up to \$999

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Jonathan Zucker

We make every effort to present a complete and accurate list of our donors.

If you notice an error or omission, please accept our apologies and contact us at +1.510.891.8700 or development@asylumaccess.org.

OUR VOLUNTEERS, INTERNS & FELLOWS

JULY 2015 - JUNE 2016

Your commitment to the people we serve is an inspiration. Thank you for your tireless efforts; you are critical to our success.

Alana Ackerman
Lora Adams
Pious Ahuja
Mohammed Altinawi
Amiran
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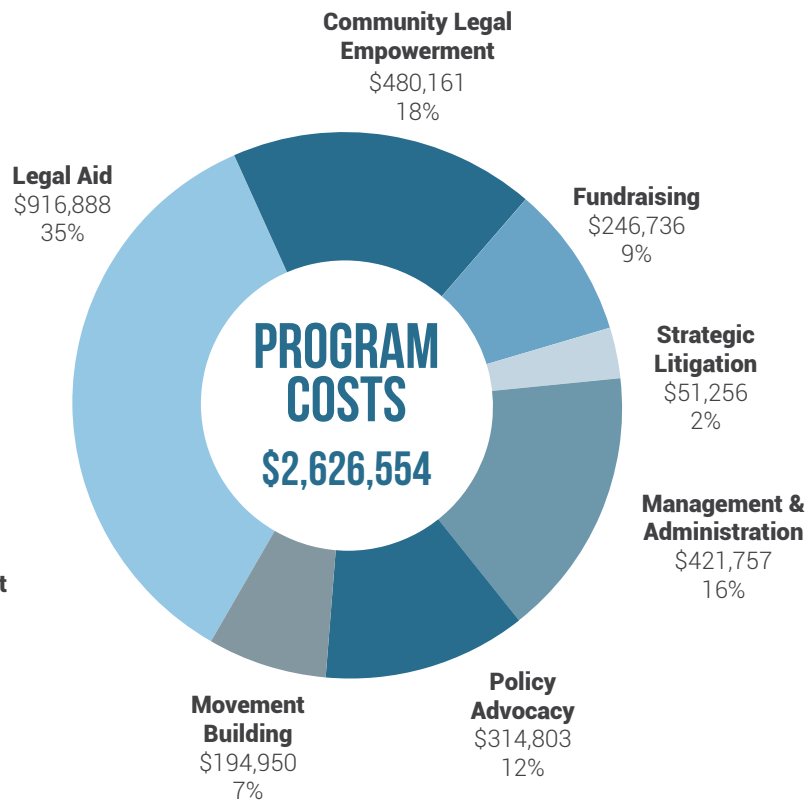
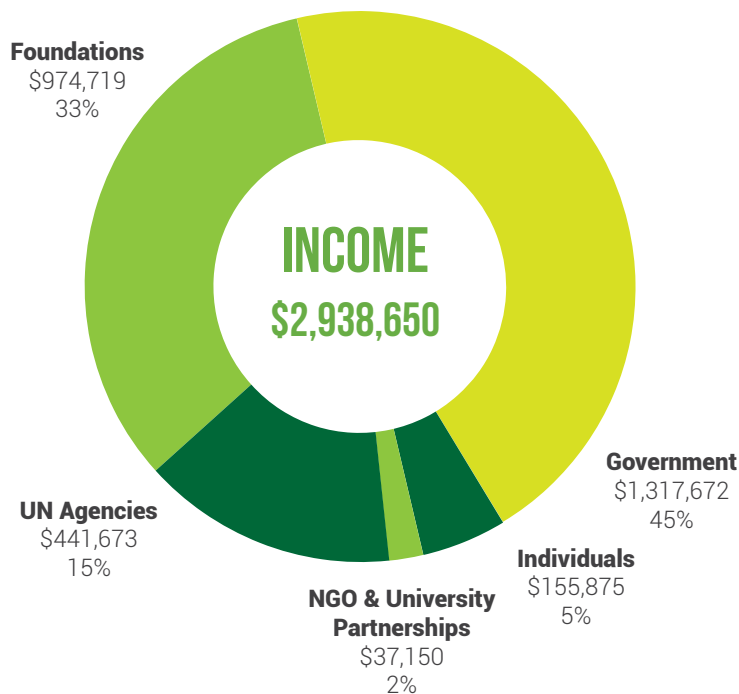
Despite all the challenges that come with this job, I am inspired on a daily basis by my clients to continue working towards the empowerment of all asylum seekers and refugees in Thailand. ”

*Annabelle Craft
Legal Advocate
Asylum Access Thailand*

Read the full interview at [asylumaccess.org](https://www.asylumaccess.org)

FINANCIALS

JULY 2015 - JUNE 2016



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