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.
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
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
TANZANIA
DAR ES SALAAM / KIGOMA
» Access to employment
» Freedom of movement

THAILAND
BANGKOK
» Alternatives to detention
» Access to health services

MALAYSIA
KUALA LUMPUR
» Alternatives to detention
» Access to employment
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

2012: 5,809
2013: 11,924
2014: 21,179
2015: 22,572
2016: 22,386

17,397 refugees received legal information, advice and representation

12,441 refugees received Know-Your-Rights training

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

620 refugees collaborated to build collective strategies that address their critical needs
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.
URBAN REFUGEES IN MALAYSIA WERE INFORMED ON THEIR OPTIONS & STEPS TO APPLY FOR ASYLUM.

MEXICO

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

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.

GLOBAL

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

THAT YEAR’S HIGHLIGHTS

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.

TANZANIA

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

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

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

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

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.
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

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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

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

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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
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JULY 2015 - JUNE 2016

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$2,938,650

Foundations
$974,719
33%

UN Agencies
$441,673
15%

NGO & University Partnerships
$37,150
2%

Individuals
$155,875
5%

Government
$1,317,672
45%

Legal Aid
$916,888
35%

Community Legal Empowerment
$480,161
18%

Fundraising
$246,736
9%

Strategic Litigation
$51,256
2%

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$421,757
16%

Policy Advocacy
$314,803
12%

Movement Building
$194,950
7%
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