



ASYLUM ACCESS

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Central American refugees
in southern Mexico

Photo by Home Storytellers

Asylum Access partners with local initiatives that offer refugees with limited rights a chance to join a community and earn a livelihood.

CHAMALiIN in Thailand is one of many such **initiatives**, empowering refugee women to become self-sufficient with the space, materials and support to produce beautiful and unique products that reflect their cultural identity.

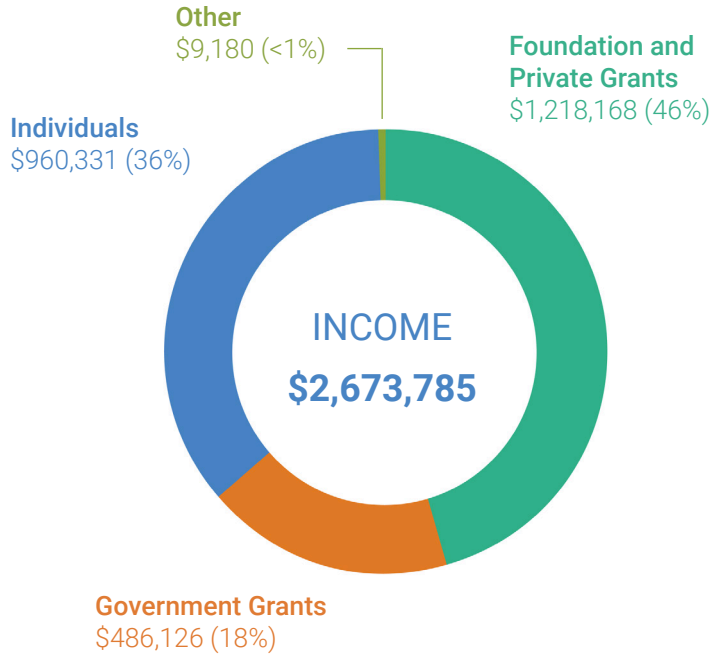
I have been working for CHAMALiIN for more than three years. I can make a living by working with CHAMALiIN. Apart from that, it is also a guide for me on how to move my future. CHAMALiIN is a great help to the livelihood of my family. Thank you.

Jana (22) from Sri Lanka



Financials

JULY 2018 - JUNE 2019





YEAR-IN-REVIEW 2019

ACROSS 5 COUNTRIES

OUR DIRECT IMPACT

8,339

found immediate safety and opportunity to rebuild through our legal aid programs.

10,161

built more resilient communities through our empowerment and educational initiatives.

OUR COLLABORATIVE IMPACT

10,388

additional clients accessed support through partner collaborations.

KEY SUCCESSES



REFUGEE LEADERSHIP

Asylum Access led the refugee rights sector in pushing for further refugee leadership and meaningful inclusion in decision-making.



EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION

Fruitful partnerships in the Middle East expanded support to thousands more refugee clients from Syria and elsewhere.



POLICY CHANGE

We achieved a stronger legal environment for refugees in Mexico and Thailand thanks to consistent advocacy and strategic litigation.

MEXICO

CALLING OUT INJUSTICE

Asylum Access Mexico (AAMX) has drawn **international media attention** to the ongoing human rights abuses against refugees by government officials. They have also testified against the 'Remain in Mexico' policy before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, demanding an end to the policy and a humane refugee response from both the US and Mexico.



Asylum Access Mexico joining other NGOs in Mexico to call out human rights abuses against refugees carried out by the Mexican government.

Asylum applications in Mexico rose by **238.3%** in 2019 compared to 2018

(Source: COMAR, Mar 2020)

29,630

70,609

AAMX submitted legal challenges against Mexico's 30-day asylum limit, detention of refugee families, denial of asylum at the border, and the use of National Guard against migrants. We continue to work with the government to end the detention of refugee children and improve funding for Mexico's refugee agency.

HOSPITALITY ROUTE

AAMX expanded its **Hospitality Route**, giving refugees access to employment, healthcare, and education. The program was featured in a new film by *Home Storytellers* (right).



RUTA DE LA
HOSPITALIDAD
#AquíNoHayMuros



THAILAND

RECOGNITION FOR REFUGEES

In December, the Thai government issued a new law that **will grant refugees temporary stay and protect them from being deported**. Refugees recognized under the new process will gain legal status in Thailand, with access to education and healthcare — a key win after 8 years of advocacy. Asylum Access Thailand (AAT) is advocating for other rights, including work, as the law takes effect.

ENDING CHILD DETENTION

In early 2019, the Thai government signed a memorandum promising **an end to child detention**. AAT is facilitating alternatives including foster care and other safe options for children who have fled war or violence.



Photo by Ramiro del Cid

MALAYSIA

FIGHTING EXPLOITATION

Refugees lack legal status in Malaysia, limiting their access to justice. To address this, **Asylum Access Malaysia (AAM)** established a **labor mediation service** to help refugees recoup unpaid wages and damages owed by their employers. AAM also has built a cross-parliamentary working group to help address the barriers that prevent refugees from getting legal status.



To be very honest there is no way that I could have ever have received my salary if it wasn't for Asylum Access. Receiving the money has helped to let me move on with my life. — Awi Ngaih from Myanmar



Photo by Sandra ten Zijthoff

PARTNERSHIPS

JORDAN AND LEBANON

In 2019, Asylum Access joined forces with local NGOs in the Middle East to grow their capacity to support refugees in the region. We worked with 6 partners to build community legal worker programs. These community workers are now helping thousands of refugees to advocate for their rights to documentation, fair treatment and justice.

Current Partners

- Basmeh & Zeitooneh
- Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH)
- Insan
- Justice Center for Legal Aid (JCLA)
- Ruwwad
- Tamkeen

Our partners reached

10,388

additional clients



GLOBAL ADVOCACY

GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM (GRF)

At the GRF in December 2019, the Global Refugee-led Network (GRN) in collaboration with Asylum Access launched a set of guidelines showing how the refugee response sector can best include refugees in decision-making.



REFUGEE WORK RIGHTS



Together with HOST International, Asylum Access produced a key report on **refugee work rights across 8 countries in Asia**, which won the Thomson Reuters TrustLaw Collaboration Award 2019. Check out our growing global index below:

WWW.REFUGEEWORKRIGHTS.ORG



At Asylum Access, we believe all refugees deserve a fair chance at a new life.

All over the world, we challenge the barriers that keep refugees from living safely, moving freely, working and attending school — because when refugees can rebuild their lives, communities thrive.

Find out more
www.asylumaccess.org

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