



HIAS / Annual Report 2018



Dear Friends,

The two of us first met in the HIAS office in Rome in 1989, as the Iron Curtain started to crumble and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev finally started to “let our people go.” One of us—Bob—was a HIAS board member and volunteer lawyer, and the other—Mark—was a caseworker, recently graduated with a degree in “Soviet Studies.” At that time, Rome was the transit point for tens of thousands of Soviet Jews headed to their new lives in the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand—places where, for the first time, they could proudly and openly be Jewish.

Those were days of great optimism that freedom would spread across the globe. We even speculated that we were entering a world where Jews no longer needed escape routes, which might allow HIAS, as a Jewish refugee agency, to proudly declare “mission accomplished” and close its doors forever.

Unfortunately, in the years that followed, we saw a sharp resurgence of persecution targeting vulnerable populations: religiously-inspired violence in Somalia; a genocide in Rwanda; ethnic cleansing across an imploding Yugoslavia; people fleeing Haiti on boats; a non-stop exodus of Colombians, Iraqi Kurds, and Sudanese; and religious and ethnic minorities fleeing Burma.

In the 1990s, HIAS realized that we could not close our doors or cease our efforts when so many countries were closing theirs to persecuted people—people like us. After over a century of experience, accomplishment, and passion helping refugees because they were Jewish, HIAS now had a calling to help refugees because we are Jewish.

Today, with more refugees and displaced people than at any time in human history, we know that HIAS made the right decision.

In 2018, under the highly capable leadership of Dianne Lob (Board Chair from 2016-19), HIAS continued to grow to protect refugee rights across the globe—particularly in Latin America, but also in Africa and Eurasia. This expansion was made possible by assistance from the U.S. government, the United Nations, and other international groups; philanthropic organizations; and supporters like you. Growing displacement worldwide was unfortunately accompanied by shrinking protection space. HIAS had to be there for the refugee.

On HIAS’ home front, we witnessed a disturbing retreat from our nation’s commitment to decency and protection toward vulnerable populations: blatant scapegoating of refugees by elected and appointed officials; the forced separation of children from their families seeking asylum; the continued evisceration of the U.S. refugee resettlement program at a time of unprecedented need; the rolling up of the American welcome mat by people in power.

As a Jewish agency, we know that the Torah tells us 36 times that it is not just the responsibility of our rulers to take care of the vulnerable, including the stranger and the refugee. The duty to welcome falls upon each one of us. It is a responsibility of we, the people.

In 2018, HIAS staff and volunteers, our tens of thousands of supporters, our refugee resettlement network of Jewish Family Service and other local partners, many hundreds of rabbis, more than 400 HIAS Welcome Campaign congregations, and nearly 300 congregations that celebrated our first National Refugee Shabbat on October 19-20—all joined in this democratization of welcome. We stepped forward to demonstrate that refugees are still welcome here.

Then, in Pittsburgh, on October 27, 2018, the Tree of Life synagogue was attacked during Shabbat services by a white nationalist who posted immediately before his murderous rampage that HIAS was “bringing in invaders”—chilling words that echoed sentiments previously stated by our nation’s leadership to describe asylum seekers. Eleven people praying were killed in the assault. The Tree of Life housed Dor Hadash, a HIAS Welcome Campaign congregation that had celebrated National Refugee Shabbat earlier that month.

Jewish Family and Community Services of Pittsburgh, HIAS’ longtime partner in refugee resettlement, responded to this mass murder by immediately addressing the trauma of its survivors. And Pittsburgh itself—both the Jewish community and the larger metropolitan community—rose to the occasion and showed that they, as a community, were far “stronger than hate.”

In his 1985 essay “The Refugee,” Elie Wiesel (of blessed memory) wrote of those Christians who risked their lives to hide Jews from the Nazis. He noted that these righteous gentiles did not realize that what they were doing was a heroic act. They just did it because it was what they knew they should do, as humans. As he concluded, “Woe to our society if to be human becomes a heroic act.”

At times in 2018, it felt that HIAS and our supporters were carrying out a heroic act. But what we do—welcoming refugees—should never be considered to be heroic. It is just what we must do as Jews, as Americans, as humans. As HIAS.

Thank you again for your support.

L’shalom (in peace),



/ Mark Hetfield
PRESIDENT & CEO



/ Robert D. Aronson
CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Welcoming the Stranger

Throughout History and Around the World





OUR HISTORY

From our beginnings in 1881 in a storefront on the Lower East Side of Manhattan providing legal aid, food, and shelter to Jews fleeing anti-Semitism in Russia and Eastern Europe, to our work nearly 140 years later providing social, emotional, legal, and advocacy support to those in need around the world, HIAS has served as a pivotal force throughout history. Indeed, HIAS began its work even before the world had a legal concept of a “refugee.”

Having helped more than 4.5 million refugees and immigrants escape persecution, HIAS is uniquely qualified to address the modern refugee situation, which has become a global humanitarian crisis.

HIAS began a new chapter in 2002 when it established operations in Kenya to provide protection to refugees from African countries plagued by conflict, to advocate on their behalf, and to resettle the most vulnerable. Soon after, we began work in Latin America, serving people displaced by conflict in Colombia, and expanding our work in Ukraine to protect asylum seekers of many different religions and nationalities from deportation. This was the beginning of HIAS’ work to build safe communities for refugees in the countries of first refuge where the majority now reside.

As the only global Jewish organization whose mission is to assist refugees wherever they are, HIAS continues to resettle refugees of all faiths and ethnicities from around the world.





2018 presented numerous challenges. Not only did the number of refugees and asylum seekers climb to the highest level in recorded history, changes in asylum and refugee policies made it harder for those seeking safe haven. Confronting the challenges of 2018 head-on, HIAS worked with forcibly displaced persons around the globe—delivering humanitarian relief, providing legal services, advancing economic inclusion, addressing sexual and gender-based violence, promoting healing through trauma counseling, organizing communities, building coalitions, beginning work in new countries, and assisting hundreds of thousands in search of refuge around the world.

VISION

HIAS stands for a world in which refugees find welcome, safety, and freedom.

MISSION

HIAS rescues people whose lives are in danger for being who they are.

- We protect the most vulnerable refugees, helping them build new lives and reuniting them with their families in safety and freedom.
- We advocate for the protection of refugees and assure that displaced people are treated with the dignity they deserve.

Guided by our Jewish values and history, we bring nearly 140 years of expertise to our work with refugees.





HIAS understands that hatred, bigotry, and xenophobia must be expressly prohibited in domestic and international law, and that the right of persecuted people to seek and benefit from refugee status must be secured and maintained. The right to refuge is a universal human right. Through advocacy, partnerships, and community mobilization, HIAS is dedicated to providing welcome, safety, and freedom to refugees of all faiths and ethnicities from all over the world.

HIAS Across the Globe

237,330 women and girls directly served by HIAS

New York
Silver Spring (HQ)
Washington, DC

Aruba
Oranjestad

Venezuela

Apure
Barninas
Caracas
Machiques
Maracaibo
Puerto Ayacucho
Puerto Ordaz
San Antonio
San Cristobal
Santa Elena de Uairen

Mexico
Ciudad Juárez

Costa Rica
San José
La Cruz
Los Chiles

Panama
Panama City

Ecuador
Cuenca
Esmeraldas
Guayaquil
Huaquillas
Ibarra
Lago Agrio
Machala
Quito
San Lorenzo
Santo Domingo
Tulcan

Colombia
Barranquilla
Bogota

35,131 individuals benefited from HIAS' economic inclusion programs

105,554 women and girls benefited from HIAS' Gender-Based Violence prevention and response programs

Peru
Lima

Belgium
Brussels

Austria
Vienna

Greece
Athens
Lesvos

HIAS is one of the leading legal aid providers in Israel, directly serving nearly **1,100** asylum seekers.

Israel
Tel Aviv

645,030 forcibly displaced people and host communities served by HIAS

23,202 individuals around the world benefitted from HIAS' legal protection services

In Chad, HIAS worked to meet the basic needs of **323,255** Sudanese refugees.

Chad
N'Djamena
12 refugee camps along the eastern border with Sudan:
Djabal, Goz Amir, Treguine, Bredjing, Farchana, Gaga, Touloum, Mile, Kounoungou, Iridimi, Amnabak, Oure Cassoni, Kerfi Site

207,750 children directly served by HIAS

Kenya
Nairobi:
Eastleigh
Kayole
Kawangware
Mimosa

HIAS in the United States



**REFUGEES
WELCOME**

HIAS

Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.

vsForRefugees

UNITED STATES RESETTLEMENT: HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY IN A NEW HOME

Despite a record 25.4 million refugees worldwide, the cap on U.S. refugee resettlement in 2018 was set at 45,000, an all-time low since the Refugee Act was passed in 1980. Even with that historically low cap, 2018 closed out with only 22,491 refugees admitted to the U.S. For the refugees who made it through to resettlement, HIAS intensified its work to integrate them into American life. Through our national network of affiliates, we provided clients with psychosocial support and helped newly arrived refugees start careers and build assets through savings plans and microenterprise investment.

HIAS resettled **1,542** people in the U.S., including over **200** children.

In New York City, HIAS provided initial resettlement services to 130 refugees, and social and economic inclusion and case management services to over 150 clients. Complemented by comprehensive

HIAS' U.S. economic integration programs supported over **2,500** people.

volunteer support and long-term institutional partnerships, we provided refugees, asylees, asylum seekers, and other clients with access to ESL tutoring,

career mentorship, interpretation and translation, cultural enrichment experiences, and other ways to integrate into life in the U.S.

The **Host Organization Model of Engagement (HOME)** model of resettlement exemplifies HIAS' approach to engaging volunteers in the community in helping refugees build new lives.

Through HOME, Jewish congregations, churches, and other groups form host organizations that assist arriving families to ensure their successful resettlement and integration. In 2018, HIAS expanded the HOME model of resettlement to New York City, where two synagogues participated in the resettlement of an Iraqi

family under a special program for wartime allies, as well as four

single Pakistanis, formerly detained in Nauru. Additionally, HIAS resettled 17 Afghan refugees in Westchester, relying on volunteers to help this suburban community feel like home. We continued to invest in our partnerships with New York-based medical, psychosocial, educational, vocational, housing, and other providers, which allowed HIAS to deliver essential wraparound services to individuals and families recovering from the trauma of displacement and rebuilding their lives in security and freedom.

HIAS provided legal protection services in the U.S. to **2,237** people.



HIAS Partnerships Across the U.S.

CALIFORNIA

Jewish Family Service of San Diego
Jewish Family & Community Services East Bay
Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley

DELAWARE

Jewish Family Services of Delaware

FLORIDA

Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services

MASSACHUSETTS

Jewish Family Service of Metrowest
Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts

MICHIGAN

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

NEW YORK

Jewish Family Service of Buffalo and Erie County
HIAS New York (New York City and Westchester)

NORTH CAROLINA

Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency

OHIO

US Together, Inc.

PENNSYLVANIA

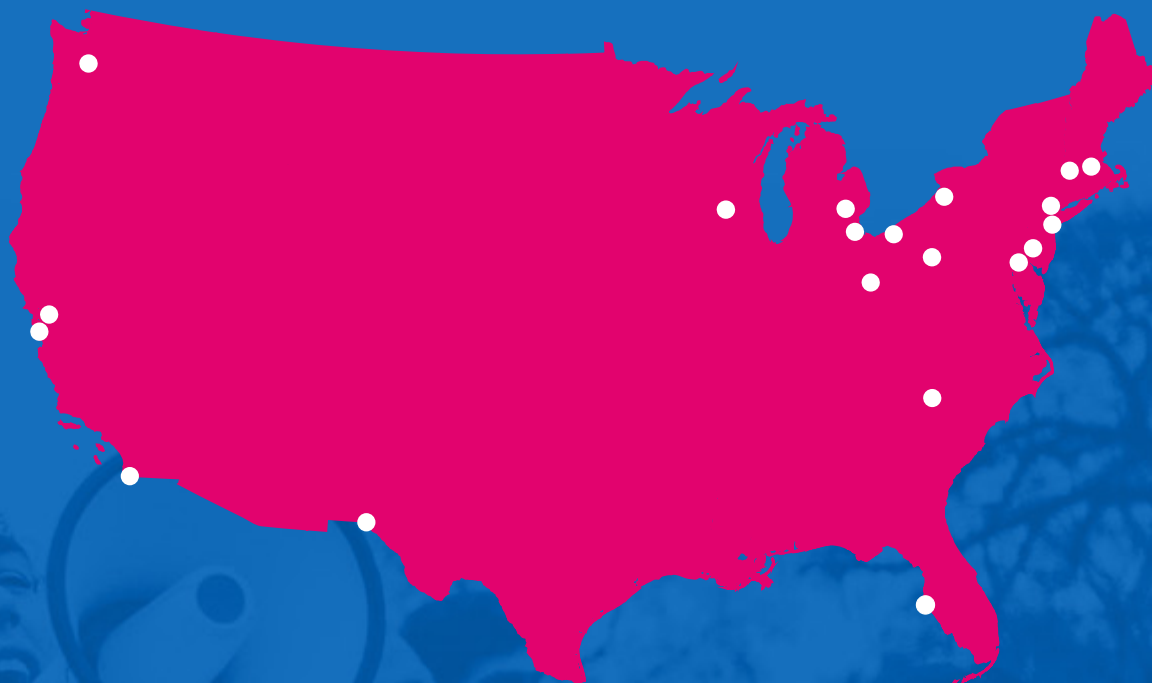
HIAS Pennsylvania
Jewish Family and Community Services

WASHINGTON

Jewish Family Service of Greater Seattle

WISCONSIN

Jewish Social Services of Madison



HIAS' legal and resettlement partnerships throughout the country enabled HIAS to maximize its impact and share resources and expertise across a wide spectrum of service agencies:

Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS)
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies (NJHSA)
Refugee Council USA (RCUSA)
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS)
UJA-Federation of New York
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



Reuniting Families for Refugees of All Abilities

Yulia, a 35-year-old refugee from Ukraine, was resettled by HIAS New York where she was reunited with her family in New York City. Yulia has epilepsy and a severe neurocognitive condition that inhibits her ability to communicate other than through simple verbal exchanges with her mother, her primary caregiver. When Yulia reached the U.S., her mother had little knowledge of how to manage her care in this new environment. Through HIAS' intensive case management services, our team helped Yulia access medical services and facilitated her application for disability benefits. Her mother received orientation on topics such as navigating the insurance system, requesting an interpreter at the doctor's office, and arranging transportation to medical appointments. Yulia is now under the care of a Russian-speaking neurologist within walking distance of her home. Her seizures have decreased in frequency, and her mother independently manages her medical care. The family is grateful to be navigating their new lives together, with newfound confidence and optimism.

"Yulia" is not the real name of the refugee; it is used to protect her confidentiality.

New HIAS Technology Boosts Employment Outcomes

HIAS worked with researchers in the U.S. and U.K. to develop Annie™ MOORE (Matching and Outcome Optimization for Refugee Empowerment), an Artificial Intelligence tool that uses machine learning to better match refugees to communities where they are most likely to succeed. Named after Annie Moore, a young Irish woman who was the first immigrant registered at

Ellis Island in 1892, this program facilitates refugees' integration into their new homes. HIAS launched Annie™ in May of 2018 to strengthen the employment prospects of newly arrived refugees. The new software improves placement decisions by integrating employment outcomes data with traditional criteria like language and nationality to provide an optimized match for each case. Early results shows that Annie™ increases the likelihood of employment by 20%, applying leading-edge technology to launch our clients on a path to sustainable success.

VOICES OF ASYLEES

“ When I was 13 years old I got pregnant. The gang members were trying to abuse me sexually. I didn’t want to go to the police because in El Salvador, the gang and the police are the same. If I went to the police, they could kill me or do something worse to my family. HIAS helped me get asylum and also helped me bring my son to the United States. I feel complete.” —**Yessenia**

“ I am from the Ivory Coast, where there was a civil war in 2010. People from the opposite group treated me like a traitor. They said they would kill me. They burned my home with my mother and sister inside. Because of me, they killed them. I escaped. That’s why I am here. I asked for asylum. Because of HIAS, I saw my kids after eight years.” —**Vassidiki**

“ I left China because my religion was persecuted by the Chinese government. Some of my friends were persecuted to death, some were put into prison and some into the labor camp. The Chinese government found out my identity, so I had to move to America. In America I can freely practice my religion. HIAS helped me to get freedom.” —**Lan**

“ Thank you for your help because you were able to recognize a family [from Venezuela] that needed help, and without expecting anything in return, HIAS helped us.... Maybe for other people HIAS is only a name, but for me HIAS has many faces... and in this moment they are my family’s support. The best people I met in New York, and that have become a part of my life, are HIAS staff and volunteers.” —**Vanessa**

These quotes have been edited slightly for grammar.

HIAS RESPONDED QUICKLY TO EMERGING CRISIS AT THE BORDER

In response to the growing border crisis in the summer of 2018, HIAS deployed a team of specialized bilingual staff to the U.S./ Mexico border to conduct an emergency assessment and identify gaps in services. Team members met with 10 local NGOs, government institutions, and community leaders in El Paso, McAllen, Harlingen, and Mission, Texas, and in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. We identified crucial needs in the area of cross-border legal representation.

Thanks to the quick strategic investment of generous funders who were motivated by their Jewish values to address the plight of children and families at the border, the **HIAS Border Fellows Project** launched in fall of 2018.

This new initiative places attorneys in local partner organizations in Texas and California, serving asylum seekers who would otherwise be left to represent themselves in court. By responding to the huge influx of asylum seekers along the Southern border with legal assistance, HIAS Border Fellows are increasing the capacity of nonprofit legal organizations in border states to provide professional representation to asylum seekers and their families, both in and out of detention, keeping families together.





HIAS Border Fellows Project Launched in Two States

HIAS partnered with three agencies—Jewish Family Services of San Diego and, in El Paso, Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center and the Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Service—to host HIAS Border Fellows for two years. HIAS Border Fellows provide legal representation to adults, children, and families in immigration court proceedings for asylum, withholding of removal, relief under the Convention Against Torture, and bond requests, as well as parole determination requests with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Fellows also provide consultations and screenings for relief options and potential immigration benefits, along with referrals to private attorneys, mental and physical health care, food pantries, and other support services.

HIAS Fellow Helps Child Facing Court System Alone

Miguel fled alone from Guatemala to seek safety in the U.S. after his mother died and he was abandoned by his father. After crossing the border, he was separated from his aunt, his only caretaker, while in the custody of the government. Other pro bono service providers in San Diego had denied him help due to the complexity of his case. With no other available resources, Miguel was facing removal proceedings without representation. After connecting with Luis Gonzalez, a HIAS Border Fellow at Jewish Family Services in San Diego, Miguel learned that he was eligible to apply for a special status due to his circumstances. Without an attorney, it would have been nearly impossible for him to navigate the legal proceedings. Luis is now representing Miguel and successfully obtained a continuance to allow time to apply for asylum and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, which would permit him to reunite with his aunt, return to school, and grow up in a community at peace.

“Miguel” is not the real name of the refugee; it is used to protect his confidentiality.

BORDER DELEGATIONS AMPLIFIED OUR IMPACT ON ASYLUM

In response to the border crisis, HIAS led border delegations on two important fronts: pro bono attorney visits to provide legal support, and trips for Jewish communal leaders to bear witness, raise awareness, and spur action.

Pro bono delegations were facilitated by the Border Fellows project, with partner organizations hosting volunteer attorneys for one-week residencies as they provided legal services to clients, some of whom were held in detention centers. In August 2018, a group of pro bono attorneys and HIAS staff spent a week with ProBAR, which manages a long-term pro bono program at the Port Isabel Detention Center in Los Fresnos, Texas. In December 2018, a group of lawyers and HIAS staff spent a week at the Karnes Residential Center in Karnes, TX, as part of the volunteer attorney program run by RAICES.

In July 2018, HIAS led a delegation of nearly 40 rabbis and community leaders to San Diego, California and Tijuana, Mexico. Their trip included visiting two shelters in Tijuana, which assist asylum seekers and migrants in transit. In August 2018, HIAS partnered with the Anti-Defamation League to lead a delegation of 27 leaders from 17 national Jewish organizations to San Diego and Tijuana. The group witnessed an “Operation Streamline” criminal court hearing, met with immigration attorneys and humanitarian workers, and visited a shelter for unaccompanied children. These leaders returned with new insight into the complexity and scale of the asylum crisis, ready to lead their communities in acting on our shared obligation to welcome the stranger



“ However varied our political opinions about immigration, the opportunity to pursue an asylum claim is a right under the laws of the United States of every person who requests it, and it is our moral and legal duty to make sure that opportunity is truly afforded to those who need it to the fullest extent of the law.... We are fortunate to have the chance to apply our expertise at our own border. I could not be more proud to have HIAS take up that mantle.”

—Jane Ginns participated in the HIAS legal delegation to the border. She is an attorney, a former HIAS client, and a current HIAS board member.

TRAGEDY IN PITTSBURGH

HIAS has long resettled refugees in Pittsburgh in partnership with Jewish Family and Community Services (JFCS) of Pittsburgh, and in October 2018, we partnered with the local Temple Sinai and Congregation Dor Hadash to celebrate National Refugee Shabbat. On October 27, the Tree of Life, Dor Hadash, and New Light congregations in Pittsburgh suffered a devastating loss of life when 11 people were murdered during Shabbat services. We continue to mourn the deaths of these worshippers: Joyce Fienberg, 75; Richard Gottfried, 65; Rose Mallinger, 97, Jerry Rabinowitz, 66; brothers Cecil Rosenthal, 59, and David Rosenthal, 54; married couple Bernice Simon, 84, and Sylvan Simon, 86; Daniel Stein, 71; Melvin Wax, 88; and Irving Younger, 69. May their memories be a blessing.

In a stunning and disturbing connection, HIAS was thrust into the national spotlight when the mass murderer mentioned HIAS as he spewed his xenophobic and anti-Semitic hatred on social media before killing innocent worshippers at the synagogue. The massacre prompted an enormous show of support for the Pittsburgh Jewish community and for HIAS, with thousands of people of all faiths and backgrounds reaching out to take a stand against bigotry.

We recognize that the work we do to bring communities together, to advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable, and to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers in the U.S. and around the globe are protected and treated with dignity is more critical than ever. We at HIAS remain resolutely committed to our mission, rooted in our history, to welcome the stranger and protect the refugee.



AMERICANS GALVANIZED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HIAS' Policy and Advocacy and Community Engagement work has shown us that Americans want better. Throughout the year's difficult political context, HIAS has been working for change in policies while mobilizing communities to take action.

In 2018, HIAS' Policy and Advocacy team encouraged policymakers to increase the number of refugees allowed to resettle in the country. We advocated for robust funding for refugee programs and fought against policies that strip away access to a safe, humane, and legal asylum system. Because empowering individuals as active citizens is key to HIAS' advocacy strategy, the Policy and Advocacy and Community Engagement teams worked to **engage American Jews and interfaith groups** locally and nationally through advocacy, volunteering, and civil action on priority issues.

The **Welcome Campaign** is an action network uniting congregations across the United States launched by HIAS in 2016. Welcome Campaign congregations raise awareness, advocate, and welcome refugees integrating into their communities. In 2018, 50 new congregations joined the Welcome Campaign bringing congregation membership above 425. People dedicated sacred time and space to refugees and asylum seekers by producing 300 **National Refugee Shabbat** programs over the Shabbat of October 19-20, 2018. Together, we learned about the global refugee crisis, connected to the national Jewish movement for refugees, celebrated local acts of welcome, and recommitted to putting our values into action.

Additionally, **seven coalitions nationwide** supported by HIAS' Community Engagement and Policy and Advocacy teams energized a multitude of people in their communities. The impact of

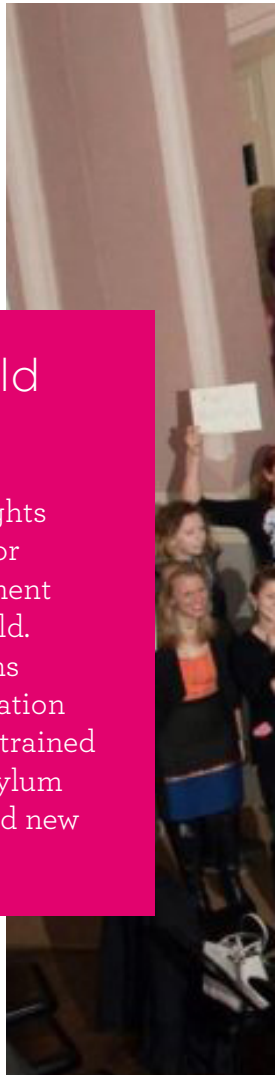
these coalitions, which represent close to 100 synagogues and Jewish organizations, cannot be underestimated. Grassroots constituent coalitions had notable achievements in 2018: they arranged direct meetings with more than 10 congressional representatives, organized National Refugee Shabbat programs, coordinated in-district meetings with congressional offices, opened their homes to house asylum seekers, published op-eds in local and national newspapers, taught English to refugees, and provided numerous volunteer service opportunities to community members.

In 2018, **six advocacy trainings—conducted in five states**, strengthened the capacity of local leaders to advocate in support of immigrants and refugees.

In each of the trainings, dozens of interfaith advocates built upon local efforts to preserve U.S. refugee admissions and the U.S. asylum system.

Kapoor's Genesis Prize Helps Build Grassroots Advocacy with HIAS

Anish Kapoor, world-renowned sculptor and human rights activist, received the Genesis Prize—awarded to Jews for their outstanding professional achievements, commitment to Jewish values, and contribution to repairing the world. He redirected his award to HIAS and peer organizations addressing the global refugee crisis. His generous donation was invested in building a base of educated, informed, trained grassroots advocates taking action for refugees and asylum seekers, growing to five states and hundreds of engaged new advocates raising a moral voice for refugees.



HIAS continues its work connecting with an interfaith cohort of partner organizations interested in social justice, refugee and immigrant rights, and asylum advocacy. In mobilizing committed local partners and grassroots leaders, powerful coalitions are demanding from their congressional representatives a more compassionate and efficient approach to the international refugee crisis.

“ *The refugee movement is something that speaks very powerfully to the Jewish community. As Jews, we deeply believe in welcoming and caring for the stranger. We all remember those Jews who were welcomed to the U.S., and we grieve for those who were turned away during the Holocaust. Our values and our own history deeply influence our dedication and action.*”

—Myra Zuckerbraun, HIAS volunteer through New York coalition partners



HIAS Around the World





HIAS

Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.



CULTIVATING REFUGEES' SELF-RELIANCE IN AFRICA

Refugees of all ages and nationalities have fled over many years from violence and ongoing conflict in countries throughout Africa. Hundreds of thousands of Congolese, Somali, Sudanese, Rwandan and refugees of other nationalities have fled to Kenya, including some who have been there since the Somali war in 1992. In Chad, the refugee population is primarily Darfuris who have remained in camps for many years. Because of the breadth of their unique psychosocial and economic needs, HIAS is keenly focused on building self-reliance in our clients.

HIAS has three offices in **Kenya**, where much of our work focuses on supporting the needs of Nairobi's 28,000 refugee children. Of these, some 1,500 are unaccompanied and separated minors who are at heightened risk of abuse and exploitation. In Kenya, HIAS is the Child Protection Implementing partner for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with a mandate of protecting refugee children in urban centers. This includes preventing and responding to abuse, neglect, violence, and exploitation of children, including providing protection interventions and advocating against all forms of discrimination. In 2018, HIAS assisted hundreds of children entering foster care and ran training institutes for prospective foster families. We oversaw child-headed households and collaborated with Xavier Project to assist children in getting uniforms, supplies, and other necessities to attend school.

In Kenya, a substantial portion of HIAS' work focuses on the LGBTQ community, where we have mobilized counselors to address the particular challenges LGBTQ refugees face related to their trauma.

In **Chad**, 66% of the refugee population are Darfuris who have been in the camps for close to two decades. A scarcity of resources such as land for farming for both refugee and host communities leaves little hope for local integration. Women are often left behind in the camps with little to no protection and are at high risk of violence. Adolescent girls are vulnerable to early and forced marriage. Human trafficking cases in the camps have been reported, where boys between the age of nine and 15 are being recruited by Chadian and Sudanese armed groups. Refugees in eastern Chad are heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance and continue to struggle with becoming more self-reliant.

To address these challenges, HIAS has strategically established a system of training refugees as leaders to cultivate skills and knowledge for psychosocial interventions. These “Community Mobilizers” identify community members in need of services and conduct follow-up visits. By training, coaching, and involving these members of the community, HIAS is successfully addressing acute needs and developing leadership within the community, helping them achieve sustainable independence.

To foster further self-determination in Chad, HIAS has partnered with local organizations to initiate a system to distribute cash-based transfers, as opposed to directly supplying food rations to refugees. Additionally, our bread-making project has been a particularly successful economic inclusion activity where at-risk women in the camps bake bread and sell it in the markets within the camps and in the surrounding villages. These women benefit from a decrease in their dependency on food distribution—a major step in the direction of self-reliance. Similarly, HIAS has initiated a pilot perma-gardening project in three locations in eastern Chad. The project has provided the beneficiaries with a more diverse diet and an additional source of income. In 2018, HIAS

provided food and non-food items to hundreds of thousands of Sudanese refugees.

Self-reliance is an essential aspect of refugee integration and trauma repair, but it can only take root in an environment that promotes economic independence and psychosocial security. HIAS’ work in Africa in 2018 built upon these priorities to help hundreds of thousands of refugees move toward greater stability, health, and hope for the future.

Perma-Gardens Provide Sustenance and Sustainability in Chad

“ *With the vegetables I harvested from my garden, I no longer needed to sell a part of my ration in the market in exchange for vegetables. After feeding my family, I still have some vegetables left to sell in the market. The income I generated from these sales gave me the opportunity to purchase sugar and salt. I am able to cover my family’s basic needs and share my produce with my close-ones, just like the old times in Sudan.*”

—Amkala Safi Djouma, 83 years old, fled Sudan and has been residing in Djabal refugee camp in Eastern Chad since 2003.

*HIAS' work in **Austria** has been focused on assisting Jewish, Christian, Baha'i, and other religious minorities from Iran to resettle as refugees in the United States through a special program authorized by Congress under the Lautenberg Amendment. While the program remains in effect, U.S. government policy changes have slowed it to a halt and created a backlog of over 5,800 applicants who want to leave Iran. With the Iranian government continuing to demonstrate intolerance toward religious minorities, congressional bipartisan support of the program and a resolution to processing challenges are more critical than ever.*



INTERFAITH COLLABORATION PROVIDED VITAL SERVICES IN EUROPE

In 2018, growing intolerance towards immigrants in Europe resulted in the passage of anti-immigrant policies, including the pervasive criminalization of migration, and crackdowns on displays of solidarity with refugees by citizens. In response, HIAS and its partner agencies are working together to make life more bearable for refugees and asylum seekers in Europe.

In **Greece**, refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, and other countries arrived daily, some by water in dinghies fleeing unsafe conditions in Turkey. Responding to the growing humanitarian and legal challenges for refugees, HIAS and Islamic Relief USA, the US arm of the humanitarian assistance and advocacy organization, have partnered to provide legal services to refugees in Greece. This interfaith partnership helped refugees navigate shifts in asylum procedures, contend with limitations on movement and employment opportunities, deal with the lack of police protection, and alleviate the impact of inadequate medical and mental health services.

HIAS provided legal aid to nearly **800** individuals in Greece.

Because of its close proximity to Turkey, the Greek island of Lesbos drew the highest number of arrivals in 2018. The Moria Reception Center, a large migrant camp on Lesbos, became so overcrowded in 2018 that the regional authority deemed it a danger to public health. With advocacy work from groups like HIAS, in the last months of 2018, the government lifted movement restrictions allowing refugees to leave the island if they met key vulnerability criteria, and to move around

the country freely, helping reduce overcrowding. In addition, alternative housing arrangements were found for the most vulnerable cases.

HIAS Greece has also formed a key relationship with Lesbos LGBTIQ+ Refugee Solidarity organization, a new partner on the referral of cases. In 2018, HIAS Greece successfully brought a case before the District Court of Mytilene concerning a transgender refugee's request to change her identification

documentation to match her gender identity. This legal change will help her find work and ease her integration. It was a win that set a very important precedent for transgender refugees.

In 2018, the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) introduced the "We are a Welcoming Europe" campaign. HIAS Greece joined 129 other civil society organizations to promote solidarity and respect for refugees across the continent, standing proudly with peer agencies and the displaced people we serve.



"My plan is to start life."

Ovileya Myrah was born in Bangladesh as Ovil, a boy. Ovileya knew herself to be female at a very young age.

She is a refugee. Raped at 15 by classmates and beaten when she told her father, Ovileya had to leave her home. On Facebook she met Osman, a gay man from Pakistan who was equally persecuted. In discussion with each other, they fled their respective countries and travelled the harrowing path by land to Turkey and then on a rickety dinghy to the Greek island of Lesbos.

On Lesbos, they found each other at Moria refugee camp, but they did not feel safe. Osman and Ovileya's relationship blossomed, but they did not feel safe. Camp Moria is a very dangerous place: "Once you've been identified as a queer in Camp Moria, you're not safe," says Ruby the lead coordinator at Lesbos LGBTIQ+ Refugee Solidarity.

Today, however, due in large part to the help of HIAS Greece, Ovileya is living in Mytilene, the capital of Lesbos, where she has a job as a kitchen assistant specializing in South Asian foods. She recently won her case in court to have her gender changed on her identification papers and is legally recognized as a woman. HIAS took the case, realizing how this change would impact Ovileya's mental health, physical safety, and ability to settle in Greece.

Now, the precedent is set for other transgendered refugees to legally change their gender identification. HIAS has helped Ovileya apply for the changes in documentation, and she is waiting for a new passport and a residence permit, both of which will confirm her gender as female. In three years, Ovileya can apply for Greek citizenship.

"Now I have a normal life. I must say thanks to HIAS," she said. "I will never hide myself anymore," she said. "My plan is to start life."



In Venezuela, HIAS supported **10,852** displaced people and vulnerable Venezuelans to meet their basic food, water and sanitation needs.

In Ecuador, HIAS' Economic Inclusion programs helped an estimated **23,403** people through its flagship Graduation Model approach and other livelihood interventions.

In Costa Rica, HIAS is the leading legal services provider for forcibly displaced people and served **4,868** individuals through legal aid, representation, and access to legal rights.

HIAS LED RESPONSE TO CRISES IN LATIN AMERICA WITH EXPERTISE AND COMPASSION

HIAS has responded rapidly to the growing needs of those seeking refuge throughout Latin America and has become a leading aid agency as we partner with NGOs and Jewish communities to alleviate the suffering of so many in the region.

In 2018, **Venezuela** continued to experience an economic breakdown, with close to 10,000,000% inflation by the end of the year, widespread power outages, and lack of access to gas, medical services and medicine, and food. Millions have left the country, with more than 30,000 receiving emergency assistance from HIAS offices in **Ecuador**. HIAS also opened an office in **Aruba** to respond to the needs of the 16,000 Venezuelans on that small island.

Nicaragua experienced political violence, pushing some 60,000 people into **Costa Rica** and **Panama** where HIAS provided emergency assistance, legal aid, and other support. In Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, record-level homicide rates resulted in increased numbers of asylum seekers moving both north to the U.S. and Mexican borders, and south to Costa Rica and Panama.

HIAS has been in Venezuela since 2007. At the time, hundreds of thousands of Colombians had fled to that country and were able to largely integrate into Venezuelan society. Many now are returning to Colombia, while HIAS continues to provide those who stay with support.

In October 2018, HIAS conducted a fact-finding mission to investigate the refugee situation in Colombia. We found that Venezuelans in Colombia face challenges accessing legal status, work, safe shelter,

medical care, and education. Most Venezuelans live alongside the 6.5 million Colombians internally displaced in the country, as well as the thousands of Colombians returning after living for decades in Venezuela. Many are sleeping in parks and highway underpasses without access to water or sanitation. With more than 250,000 Venezuelans now in Bogota alone, demand for shelter and services far outweighs available resources.

In order to meet the most urgent needs of displaced Venezuelans in Latin America, HIAS designed a comprehensive regional response. The response included interventions that are beneficiary-centered and evidence-based, drawing on our 140 years of helping refugees integrate successfully into their new home communities. Working with international and local partners to maximize our reach and efficiency, we ensured that vulnerable refugees could access information and support, and live safely and free from discrimination.

Our partnerships with international aid organizations are pivotal. HIAS is opening offices in **Colombia** and **Peru**, in partnership with the UN Refugee Agency, to assist refugees in addressing gender-based violence, accessing community-based resources, recovering from the immediate shock of displacement, and finding work that leads to social and economic inclusion.

The world's humanitarian donors are taking action: European governments, the European Commission, UN agencies, the US government, and corporate donors all plan to increase their giving to respond to the vast needs in the region. HIAS will be ready to apply our expertise as one of the largest agencies working in Latin America and the Caribbean, ensuring that displaced people are connected with the services to realize their rights and rebuild their lives.







HIAS Equips Families to Achieve Financial Stability

One of HIAS' most innovative programs is the Graduation Model Approach to economic stabilization. This multi-faceted program provides clients with training in job skills, access to savings, and career and financial coaching, with the goal of “graduating” refugees out of poverty.

A Graduation Story

Janeth and Tulio are a Venezuelan couple that fled to Ecuador due to lack of access to basic needs such as food and medicine. Finding employment in Ecuador was difficult, and they felt desperate. With help from HIAS, they became entrepreneurs, launching their own business making children's clothes. Janeth, who had previous experience in dressmaking, began making clothes for babies and received vocational training support to improve her skills. In May 2018, they participated in a competition held by Domino's Pizza to select their uniform supplier, and they won the bid. Since then, the family's well-being has improved significantly. Soon, they will be able to graduate from the program into economic stability.

ADVOCATING ON BEHALF OF ASYLUM SEEKERS IN ISRAEL

HIAS' pro bono program in Israel served over 1,000 Eritrean and Sudanese asylum seekers in 2018, but helped thousands more through impact litigation. In partnership with many local organizations and law firms, HIAS worked with asylum applicants through every step of the legal process. There are approximately 31,000 Eritrean and Sudanese asylum seekers in Israel, and most do not have legal representation.

HIAS worked closely with family lawyers and the Eritrean Women's Community Center to secure protection for refugee women experiencing intimate partner violence. HIAS also successfully represented 11 women and children in an amicus curiae brief as part of the Deposit Law litigation brought against the government, helping to win a decision to exempt women from the Deposit Law's 20% garnishment of wages. HIAS continues to play a leading role in advocating against this law.

HIAS Israel also paved pathways for the economic inclusion of asylum seekers, working with NGOs such as African Refugee Development Center (ARDC). In order to raise awareness and create safe environments for companies to employ asylum seekers, HIAS Israel partners with NGOs to educate prospective employers about legal and human rights and to improve their understanding of forced displacement and asylum issues. We are confident that preparing both our clients and their employers to succeed makes economic integration quicker, easier, and more sustainable for all.

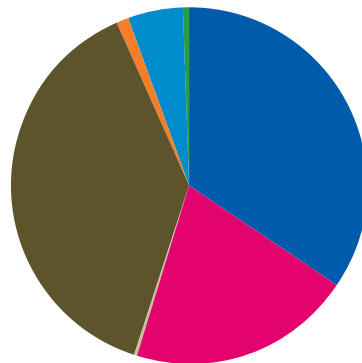
HIAS is one of the leading legal aid providers in Israel, serving nearly **1,100** asylum seekers.



HIAS FINANCIALS

HIAS' primary sources of income are contributions from individuals and foundations; funds released from HIAS' endowments to support operations; and grants from the U.S. government, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and allied agencies and governments. The 2018 fiscal year, which ran from January 1-December 31, demonstrated the agency's resilience in the face of tremendous challenges, thanks to prudent stewardship of resources, our supporters' generosity, and an influx of support following the tragedy in Pittsburgh.

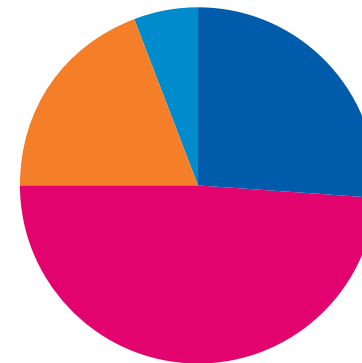
The year concluded with a significant rise in individual and foundation contributions, nearly doubling 2017 levels in these categories. Expenses remained on track with the previous year, growing in select areas and declining in others based on the evolving needs of the displaced people HIAS serves and the shifting areas of work. Thanks to the steadfast support and partnership of stakeholders like you, HIAS was positioned to enter 2019 with unbowed optimism, unflagging energy, and an unwavering commitment to acting on our shared values of inclusion and welcome.



REVENUE

■ Contributions	\$17,346,825
■ Operating Grants	\$10,270,483
■ Operating Bequests	\$61,421
■ U.S. Government	\$19,138,737
■ Loan Processing Fees	\$675,862
■ Release from Board Designated	\$2,477,145
■ Service Fee Revenue	\$196,560

TOTAL: \$50,167,033



EXPENSES

■ Refugee & Immigration - U.S.	\$11,851,127
■ Refugee & Immigration - Int'l	\$21,918,939
■ Management & General Support	\$8,683,088
■ Fundraising Support Services	\$2,530,224

TOTAL: \$44,983,378

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Your support drives change in the struggle for justice and dignity for displaced people around the globe. Because of you, HIAS helped over half a million people and communities in 2018. Thank you for partnering with us during a year of extraordinary impact. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

The following generous donors contributed to HIAS in the 2018 fiscal year.♦

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