MEASURING THE STATE OF DISASTER PHILANTHROPY | 2017
DATA TO DRIVE DECISIONS
Disasters and humanitarian crises affected millions of people globally in 2015. A massive earthquake struck Nepal in April, followed by aftershocks that hampered relief efforts and further increased the devastation. Floods inundated areas of India and Malawi. The number of refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced people rose to 65.3 million people.

In the United States, deadly storms and flooding affected South Carolina, Texas, and Oklahoma. The drought continued in California, contributing to wildfires. The Flint water crisis became full blown, with toxic levels of lead making tap water unsafe for residents.

Each year, the Center for Disaster Philanthropy and Foundation Center analyze global disaster-related funding from foundations, bilateral and multilateral donors, the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), corporations, and smaller donors who give through donor-advised funds and online platforms. We analyze this funding according to a taxonomy that classifies giving by type of disaster and disaster assistance strategy.

Key findings from our 2015 analysis:

- Drawing upon nine data sources, we documented $23 billion in disaster-related giving in 2015.

- Grants awarded by 1,000 of the largest U.S. foundations totaled $158.1 million. There were some considerable differences in the distribution of contributions in 2015 compared with previous years. It is too early to determine whether this represents a new approach to disaster-related giving or is an anomaly.

  - Overall funding decreased from the previous year when disaster-related contributions totaled $225.7 million, due to large grants addressing the Ebola epidemic. However, more grants were distributed in 2015 by more funders.

  - Funding for complex emergencies increased dramatically from previous years and represented a greater proportion of overall funding. Large U.S. foundations distributed $26.6 million for complex emergencies (17 percent of overall funding), compared with $7.7 million (3 percent) in 2014. As the Syrian war continued and millions of refugees fled to surrounding countries and Europe, foundations increased support for the humanitarian crisis.

  - Epidemics were the highest-funded disaster type ($32.6 million), with foundations continuing the support they gave in 2014 following the Ebola outbreak. In addition, $16.9 million was distributed for earthquakes, which received the most number of grants (159 grants).

  - Among disaster assistance strategies, response and relief efforts continued to receive the most funding (34 percent), though this proportion was far lower than in previous
A third of the refugees making the harrowing journey to Europe have fled the conflict in Syria. Photo: Ben White/CAFOD

years. Conversely, resilience, risk reduction, and mitigation represented a larger share of funding than in the past (17 percent, compared with 9 percent in both 2013 and 2014). In the aftermath of the Ebola outbreak, some funders made sizable investments to strengthen disaster risk management.

– Disaster preparedness (6 percent) and reconstruction and recovery (5 percent) continued to be underfunded areas of the disaster lifecycle.

• A review of Foundation Center’s broader database identified an additional $119.7 million in funding by smaller foundations, public charities, and international foundations.

• Official development assistance by 29 government members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC) totaled $16.8 billion for disasters and humanitarian crises. Non-DAC government donors and multilateral organizations contributed an additional $3.7 billion.

• FEMA distributed $2.2 billion in grants and assistance for domestic disasters in 2015. The top recipient states of FEMA grants were California, Texas, and South Carolina.

• Based on available data, corporate giving programs committed at least $50.1 million to disasters and humanitarian crises, as both cash and in-kind donations.

• Individual donors contributed $15.8 million through donor-advised funds managed by Fidelity Charitable and $2.9 million through donor-advised funds managed by Vanguard Charitable.

• Many individual donors also gave through online platforms like Network for Good and GlobalGiving. Network for Good helped direct at least $2.2 million in donations for disasters and humanitarian crises through their giving portals, with $1.7 million being donated for earthquakes. GlobalGiving raised $7.7 million for disasters, supporting 213 projects by 167 organizations. GlobalGiving’s Nepal Earthquake Relief and Recovery Fund raised more than $5 million.

Philanthropic funding for disasters and humanitarian crises is situated within a large ecosystem of global aid. While assistance from governments far surpasses funding from foundations, institutional philanthropy still plays an important role. For example, foundations can choose to fill funding gaps and support underfunded areas of the disaster lifecycle. Support for disaster risk reduction and preparedness can mitigate the impact of disasters, and many communities need sustained funding for the long road to recovery.

We hope this analysis will aid donors in considering how to maximize the impact of their disaster-related giving. To learn more about Measuring the State of Disaster Philanthropy, we invite you to visit our online tools at disasterphilanthropy.foundationcenter.org.
Major disasters and humanitarian crises affected millions of people globally in 2015. A massive earthquake struck Nepal in April, followed by aftershocks that hampered relief efforts and further increased the devastation. Floods inundated areas of India and Malawi. The number of refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced people rose to 65.3 million people.

In the United States, deadly storms and flooding affected South Carolina, Texas, and Oklahoma. The drought continued in California, contributing to wildfires. The Flint water crisis became full blown, with toxic levels of lead making tap water unsafe for residents.

What was the landscape of philanthropic giving for these and other disasters in 2015? We document foundation support and place it in context with other sources of global aid to provide the fullest possible financial picture of disaster-related funding.

We acknowledge that there are far more disaster contributions than what we currently document, and we invite donors and other data-gathering organizations to partner with us to include their giving data in our annual analysis: disasterphilanthropy.foundationcenter.org/get-involved.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATA SOURCES FOR 2015 ANALYSIS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOUNDATION CENTER</td>
<td>Comprehensive source of data on U.S. foundation giving with a growing database of global foundations; analysis is based on annual grants sets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD) CREDITOR REPORTING SYSTEM</td>
<td>Central database for humanitarian assistance from the 29 OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) member states</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (UN OCHA) FINANCIAL TRACKING SERVICE</td>
<td>Comprehensive source of real-time humanitarian aid contributions; to avoid double counting, we exclude contributions from DAC donors and U.S. foundations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)</td>
<td>Detailed information from FEMA Hazard Mitigation, Public Assistance, Assistance to Firefighters, Fire Prevention &amp; Safety, and SAFER grant awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP CENTER DISASTER CORPORATE AID TRACKER</td>
<td>Key source of data on corporate giving for disasters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLOBALGIVING</td>
<td>Contributions collected through the organization’s online giving platform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NETWORK FOR GOOD</td>
<td>Aggregated data on disaster-designated contributions collected through its software platform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VANGUARD CHARITABLE</td>
<td>Aggregated data on contributions collected through donor-advised funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIDELITY CHARITABLE</td>
<td>Aggregated data on contributions collected through donor-advised funds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About This Project

Measuring the State of Disaster Philanthropy is an annual analysis of funding for global disasters and humanitarian crises. See these other tools to help inform disaster-related philanthropy:

**MEASURING THE STATE OF DISASTER PHILANTHROPY DASHBOARD**
Download this research brief and interact with aggregated 2015 funding data disasterphilanthropy.foundationcenter.org

**MEASURING THE STATE OF DISASTER PHILANTHROPY MAPPING PLATFORM**
Dig deeper into grant- and project-level data, from 2011 to present disasterphilanthropy.org/state-of-disaster-philanthropy-map

**DISASTER PHILANTHROPY PLAYBOOK**
Learn about the best ways to allocate resources for disasters disasterplaybook.org

For more information about this report, or to learn about how to increase the effectiveness of your philanthropic dollars, please contact Regine.Webster@disasterphilanthropy.org.
U.S. Foundations

FOUNDATION FUNDING BY DISASTER TYPE, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disaster Type</th>
<th>Total Giving</th>
<th>Grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disasters—General</td>
<td>$51,289,117</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex Humanitarian Emergencies</td>
<td>$26,618,899</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man-Made Accidents</td>
<td>$4,300,000</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Disasters</td>
<td>$75,911,147</td>
<td>396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man-Made Accidents</td>
<td>$4,300,000</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL GIVING $158.1M
740 grants by 202 foundations

Funding for complex emergencies increased 245 percent from $7.7 million in 2014.

Based on all grants of $10,000 or more reported by 1,000 of the largest U.S. foundations.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Foundation Center’s database has a growing number of grants from smaller foundations, public charities, and non-U.S. foundations. In 2015, these donors contributed an additional $119.7 million in disaster-related funding through 850 grants.

For example, the International Paper Company Foundation, a corporate foundation in Memphis, TN, distributed $750,000 to the American Red Cross for relief efforts for those impacted by the South Carolina floods. The Tides Foundation, a public charity in San Francisco, CA, allocated 11 grants totaling $817,500 to various organizations for Nepal earthquake relief efforts.

Internationally, the Stichting IKEA Foundation announced a $42.2 million award to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to make refugees and heavily stretched host communities more resilient in Burkina Faso and Ethiopia by supporting self-reliance initiatives, improving basic services, and fostering peaceful co-existence.
### Measuring the State of Disaster Philanthropy 2017: Data to Drive Decisions

#### Foundation Funding by Disaster Assistance Strategy, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>% of Giving</th>
<th>% of Grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resilience, Risk Reduction, and Mitigation</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>$27,631,543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparedness</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>$9,435,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response and Relief</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>$53,617,635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconstruction and Recovery</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>$7,190,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Strategies</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>$20,926,918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unspecified</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>$19,737,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>$19,579,335</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- In the aftermath of the 2014 Ebola outbreak, funders made more investments to build resilience and strengthen disaster risk management.

![Coast Guard overflight of South Carolina flooding. Photo: Petty Officer 1st Class Stephen Lehmann](image)
### TOP 10 FOUNDATION FUNDERS, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation Name</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
<th>Grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation</td>
<td>$30,886,674</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockefeller Foundation</td>
<td>$9,990,264</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul G. Allen Family Foundation</td>
<td>$8,208,304</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPS Foundation</td>
<td>$7,887,686</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conrad N. Hilton Foundation</td>
<td>$6,858,500</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret A. Cargill Foundation</td>
<td>$5,894,113</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Foundation</td>
<td>$5,338,983</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Stewart Mott Foundation</td>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation to Promote Open Society</td>
<td>$4,161,798</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford Foundation</td>
<td>$3,920,000</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Paul G. Allen Family Foundation continued funding for the Ebola outbreak, including clinical trials for Ebola treatments and strengthening Sierra Leone’s public health systems.

Grantmaking strategies include disaster preparedness, response, and long-term recovery.

Grants addressed humanitarian aid, psychosocial support, and child protection for those impacted by the Syrian conflict.

### TOP 10 RECIPIENTS OF FOUNDATION FUNDING, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recipient Name</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
<th>Grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Red Cross National Headquarters</td>
<td>$11,435,003</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ClinicalRM</td>
<td>$10,711,943</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Medical Corps</td>
<td>$4,028,290</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Flint</td>
<td>$4,000,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asociacion Salvadorena de Ayuda Humanitaria</td>
<td>$3,500,039</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tulane Educational Fund</td>
<td>$3,500,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Society Initiative for West Africa</td>
<td>$3,005,836</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nduna Foundation</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partners in Health</td>
<td>$2,900,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercy Corps</td>
<td>$2,783,751</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An additional 39 grants totaling $6.2 million went to local chapters of the American Red Cross.

From the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation to purchase water from Detroit for Flint residents.

From the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to strengthen leadership capacity in the humanitarian and disaster risk management sectors.
Grants may benefit multiple regions and would therefore be counted more than once.

U.S. Foundation Funding Trends, 2012-2015

**TOTAL AMOUNT**

- **2012**: $111,364,418
- **2013**: $116,918,862
- **2014**: $225,657,844
- **2015**: $158,119,163

**NUMBER OF GRANTS**

- **2012**: 884 grants
- **2013**: 906 grants
- **2014**: 525 grants
- **2015**: 740 grants

**NUMBER OF FOUNDATIONS**

- **2012**: 234 foundations
- **2013**: 265 foundations
- **2014**: 162 foundations
- **2015**: 202 foundations

Funding in 2014 spiked, largely due to significant contributions by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation for the Ebola crisis.
1. Yemen $1,136,187,256
2. Syrian Arab Republic $1,045,476,137
3. Republic Of South Sudan $216,527,305
4. Nepal Earthquake $173,929,867
5. Occupied Palestinian Territory $127,359,712

Syria and South Sudan received the most funding.

Top Five Emergences, 2015
Measuring the State of Disaster Philanthropy 2017: Data to Drive Decisions

**FEMA**

**TOTAL GIVING**

$2.2B

7,201 grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>TOTAL GIVING</th>
<th>NUMBER OF GRANTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WILDFIRE</td>
<td>$1,062,174,296</td>
<td>2,670 grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STORM</td>
<td>$804,425,621</td>
<td>3,643 grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLOOD</td>
<td>$293,637,775</td>
<td>615 grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTREME TEMPERATURE</td>
<td>$84,451,502</td>
<td>273 grants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The top recipient states of FEMA grants were California, Texas, and South Carolina.

FEMA and the Federal Government cannot vouch for the data or analyses derived from these data after the data have been retrieved from the Agency's websites.

**DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS**

**FIDELITY CHARITABLE**

$15.8M | 7,677 grants

$8.3 million went toward Nepal earthquake.

$6.3 million was for refugee relief.

**VANGUARD CHARITABLE**

$2.9M | 673 grants

$1.4 million went toward earthquakes.

$776,585 was for complex humanitarian emergencies.

Makeshift shelter in the aftermath of a cyclone that struck Myanmar.

Photo: ©European Union/ECHO/Pierre Prakash
CORPORATE GIVING PROGRAMS

AT LEAST $50.1M | 165 pledges

Nepal Earthquake
$26,706,015
138 pledges

Refugee Crisis
$15,871,973
12 pledges

Ebola Epidemic
$4,735,605
8 pledges

South Carolina Flooding
$1,815,000
32 pledges

Texas Flooding
$1,015,000
17 pledges

Includes cash and in-kind gifts that were assigned a monetary value

An additional 42 pledges were made for in-kind aid without a monetary value

T-Mobile waived fees for texts and calls to/from Nepal.

Sealed Air Corporation Contributions Program donated heavy duty recycled plastic films for shelter and construction tarps to the American Red Cross for South Carolina flooding relief.

FedEx Corporation committed transportation support to deliver medical aid to Nepal.

Yesriba feeds her two-year-old Seid high-nutrient peanut paste (known as plumpy nut or RUTF).

Photo: Kyle Degraw/Save the Children
94% NATURAL DISASTERS
$7,169,320
176 projects

6% COMPLEX HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES
$491,144
28 projects

<0.1% DISASTERS–GENERAL
$3,226
8 projects

<0.1% MAN-MADE ACCIDENTS
$80
1 project

GLOBALGIVING

TOTAL GIVING
$7.7M
213 projects

NETWORK FOR GOOD

AT LEAST $2.2M | 17,920 donations

Donations for disasters tended to cluster around major events, though gifts to address complex emergencies were more dispersed.

79%
of earthquake donations came within a week of April 28

APRIL 25
Nepal earthquake struck

APRIL 28
Greatest number of donations

14%
of refugee crisis donations came within a week of September 5

SEPT. 2
Photo of Syrian boy went viral

SEPT. 5
Greatest number of donations

Top Five Projects, 2015

2. GlobalGiving: Chennai Flood Relief Fund $ 458,840
3. IsraAID: Emergency Relief for Refugees Arriving in Europe $ 104,542
4. IsraAID: Emergency Relief for Earthquake-Struck Nepal $ 103,107
5. Ama Foundation: Ama Ghar Community Earthquake Relief $ 96,285

Network for Good altered its process for identifying disaster-related donations. While this method likely undercounts the amount of disaster aid, it allows for greater analysis of giving patterns. Comparison of total giving with previous years is not recommended.
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