

MEASURING THE STATE OF DISASTER PHILANTHROPY | 2022

DATA TO DRIVE DECISIONS



Candid.



Center for Disaster Philanthropy
The when, where and how of informed disaster giving



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Devastation of Cyclone Amphan in Khulna, Bangladesh.
Photo: Fahad Kaizer, UN Women

Executive Summary

The disaster that dominated 2020 was the COVID-19 pandemic. By the end of the year, **this global phenomenon** led to the deaths of almost two million people, over 90 million confirmed cases, and trillions of dollars in economic losses worldwide.

Although COVID-19 took up most of the globe's attention, climate-related disasters also affected millions of people in 2020. According to the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED)'s **2020 Annual Report**, 389 natural disasters affected 98.4 million people and cost \$171.3 billion.¹

The 2020 Atlantic Ocean hurricane season broke the record for the highest number of named storms with 30 events. Hurricane Eta caused catastrophic damage from Colombia to the United States. Storms in Asia, including Cyclone Amphan, caused widespread damage in India and Bangladesh. Puerto Rico was struck by an earthquake swarm that included 11 earthquakes at a magnitude of 5 or greater from late 2019 to early 2020. In Australia, the 2019–2020 bushfire season, referred to as the Black Summer, led to over 60 million acres of burned area. The Sahel in North Africa continued to face droughts, and wildfires across the west coast of the U.S. caused \$10 billion in annual economic losses three of the last four years.

Each year, the Center for Disaster Philanthropy (CDP) and Candid analyze global disaster-related funding from foundations, bilateral and multilateral donors, the U.S. federal government, corporations, and donations through donor-advised funds (DAFs) and online platforms. We analyze funding according to a taxonomy that classifies giving by disaster type and disaster assistance strategy, allowing us to identify funding gaps and areas of opportunity so that crisis-affected communities have resources for immediate relief and to build back stronger than before.

As the world continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, while also facing the effects of climate change, what lessons can we take from the philanthropic response to disasters in 2020?

Key findings from our analysis of 2020 data include:

- Drawing upon 12 data sources, we documented almost \$121 billion in disaster-related giving in 2020. Funding across all data sources increased dramatically in 2020 compared to 2019.
- We identified \$5.2 billion in funding to date by foundations and public charities, in Candid's database. (Data collection for 2020 is still underway, therefore, all institutional philanthropy analyses are presented as funding "to date.")

- Support for COVID-19 far outstripped funding for any other disaster. Epidemics accounted for 96% of dollars awarded.
- Among disaster assistance strategies, 90% of dollars went toward response and relief efforts.
- Comparing a matched set of 222 U.S. foundations, disaster-related funding in 2020 far exceeded giving in previous years, totaling \$2.1 billion in 2020 compared to \$110.7 million in 2019. The increase was due to additional funding addressing epidemics.

- Official development assistance by 30 government members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) totaled \$36.4 billion for disasters and humanitarian crises in 2020. Non-DAC government donors and multilateral organizations contributed an additional \$3.1 billion.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) distributed \$57.6 billion for U.S. disasters in 2020, a \$54 billion increase from 2019. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated \$9 billion in recovery efforts in 2020, an \$8 billion increase from 2019. In 2020, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) invested approximately \$1.2 billion in 988 projects, a \$851.8 million increase from 2019. This is just a sampling of U.S. government contributions that make up the bulk of domestic disaster funds.
- Candid's analysis of corporate public announcements found \$3.6 billion in disaster-related funding from corporate giving programs. Based on data from Chief Executives for Corporate Purpose (CECP), 161 of the world's largest companies committed about \$650 million to disasters and humanitarian crises.
- Among individual donors:
 - Individual donors contributed \$494 million through donor-advised funds managed by Fidelity Charitable and \$98.9 million through donor-advised funds managed by Vanguard Charitable. These numbers provide only a small snapshot of contributions made for disaster efforts through donor-advised funds, as Fidelity Charitable and Vanguard Charitable are just two of many donor-advised fund management companies.

- Many individual donors also gave through online platforms, including Network for Good and GlobalGiving. Network for Good helped direct \$16.4 million in donations to disaster-specific nonprofits in 2020. GlobalGiving raised \$28.6 million for disasters, supporting 640 projects in 2020.
- Analyzing public announcements, Candid identified \$5.8 billion in disaster-related funding from high-net-worth individuals. Most funding was in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

CDP made dozens of grants in response to 2020 disasters, including, but not limited to the COVID-19 pandemic, Atlantic Hurricanes, Australian and North American wildfires, and complex humanitarian crises. In this report, two giving strategies — advocacy and capacity building — are examined in more detail.

1. Acknowledging the role of human activity, the Center for Disaster Philanthropy now refers to natural disasters as natural hazards or extreme weather events. CRED's [definition of natural disasters](#) includes geophysical, meteorological, hydrological, climatological, biological, and extraterrestrial weather events.

Philanthropy is crucial in supporting the long-term recovery of individuals and communities affected by disasters. The *Measuring the State of Disaster Philanthropy* report encourages donors to increase their investments in addressing natural hazards, severe weather events, and complex humanitarian emergencies, recognizing that we all need to support communities to confront climate change. These funds need to address preparedness, mitigation, adaptation, and recovery while also focusing on the lessons from the pandemic of making flexible grants, supporting equity, and investing in local communities.

To learn more about *Measuring the State of Disaster Philanthropy* and to explore the data behind this analysis on our interactive funding map, visit disasterphilanthropy.candid.org.



A Lassen Hotshot firefighter uses a drip torch along the fire's north flank to secure containment lines on the August Complex North Zone in northern California.
Photo: Mike McMillan, Pacific Southwest Forest Service

Data Sources

Philanthropic funding for disasters and humanitarian crises is situated within a large ecosystem of global aid. Assistance from governments far surpasses funding from private philanthropy, but foundations, corporations, grantmaking public charities, and individual donors still play important roles. This report documents foundation support and places it in context with other sources of national and global aid to provide the fullest possible financial picture of disaster-related funding.

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

DATA SOURCES	DESCRIPTION
CANDID	Comprehensive source of data on U.S. foundation giving with a growing database of global foundations
ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD) CREDITOR REPORTING SYSTEM (CRS)	Central database for official development assistance from the 30 OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) member states. Data for this project was collected based on project descriptions and CRS purpose codes. DAC donors' contributions to the regular budgets of multilateral institutions have been excluded.
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (UN OCHA) FINANCIAL TRACKING SERVICE (FTS)	Comprehensive source of real-time humanitarian aid contributions. Data used in this analysis excludes contributions from DAC donors and U.S. foundations (to avoid double counting across data sources), unspecified private contributions, and in-kind donations without a dollar value.
U.S. FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)	Detailed information on domestic grants by this U.S. government agency for disasters. Data was accessed in July 2022 from fema.gov and excludes grants related to weapons of mass destruction and terrorism.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)	Aggregated data on disbursements made by this U.S. government agency for disasters
U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA)	Aggregated data on disbursements made by this U.S. government agency for disasters
CHIEF EXECUTIVES FOR CORPORATE PURPOSE (CECP)	Aggregated data on contributions made by corporations, based on CECP's <i>Giving in Numbers</i> report
U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP CENTER DISASTER CORPORATE AID TRACKER	Key source of data on corporate giving for disasters
FIDELITY CHARITABLE	Aggregated data on contributions collected through donor-advised funds
VANGUARD CHARITABLE	Aggregated data on contributions collected through donor-advised funds
NETWORK FOR GOOD	Aggregated data on disaster-designated contributions collected through its software platform
GLOBALGIVING	Disaster-related contributions collected through the organization's online giving platform. Data was collected based on descriptions for projects with a 2020 approval date and excludes projects by U.S. foundations (to avoid double counting across data sources).

Disaster Taxonomy

DISASTER TYPES

COMPLEX HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY

MAN-MADE ACCIDENT

GENERAL

NATURAL HAZARD AND SEVERE WEATHER EVENT

Drought

Extreme Temperature

Storm

Earthquake/Tsunami

Flood

Volcano

Epidemic

Mass Movement

Wildfire

DISASTER ASSISTANCE STRATEGIES



RESILIENCE,
RISK REDUCTION,
AND MITIGATION



PREPAREDNESS



RESPONSE
AND RELIEF



RECONSTRUCTION
AND RECOVERY

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 MAPPING PLATFORM



Dig deeper into grant- and project-level data from 2011 to the present: disasterphilanthropy.candid.org/map.

DISASTER PHILANTHROPY PLAYBOOK



Learn about the best ways to allocate resources for disasters: disasterphilanthropy.org/disaster-philanthropy-playbook.

For more information about this report, or to learn how to increase the effectiveness of your philanthropic dollars, please contact tanya.gulliver-garcia@disasterphilanthropy.org.

Institutional Philanthropy

PHILANTHROPIC FUNDING BY DISASTER TYPE, 2020 TO DATE

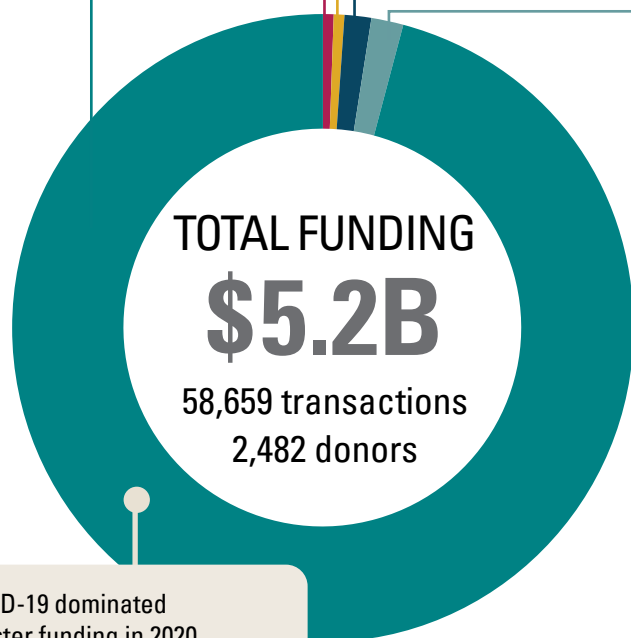
96%
EPIDEMICS
\$4,969,110,750
55,696 transactions

<1%
**COMPLEX
HUMANITARIAN
EMERGENCIES**
\$13,705,249
106 transactions

<1%
**MAN-MADE
ACCIDENTS**
\$1,489,037
20 transactions

2%
DISASTERS—GENERAL
\$ 113,168,575
1,427 transactions

2%
**OTHER NATURAL HAZARDS/
SEVERE WEATHER**
\$94,813,694
1,410 transactions



COVID-19 dominated disaster funding in 2020.

To learn more about the data used in the institutional philanthropy analysis, see p. 18.

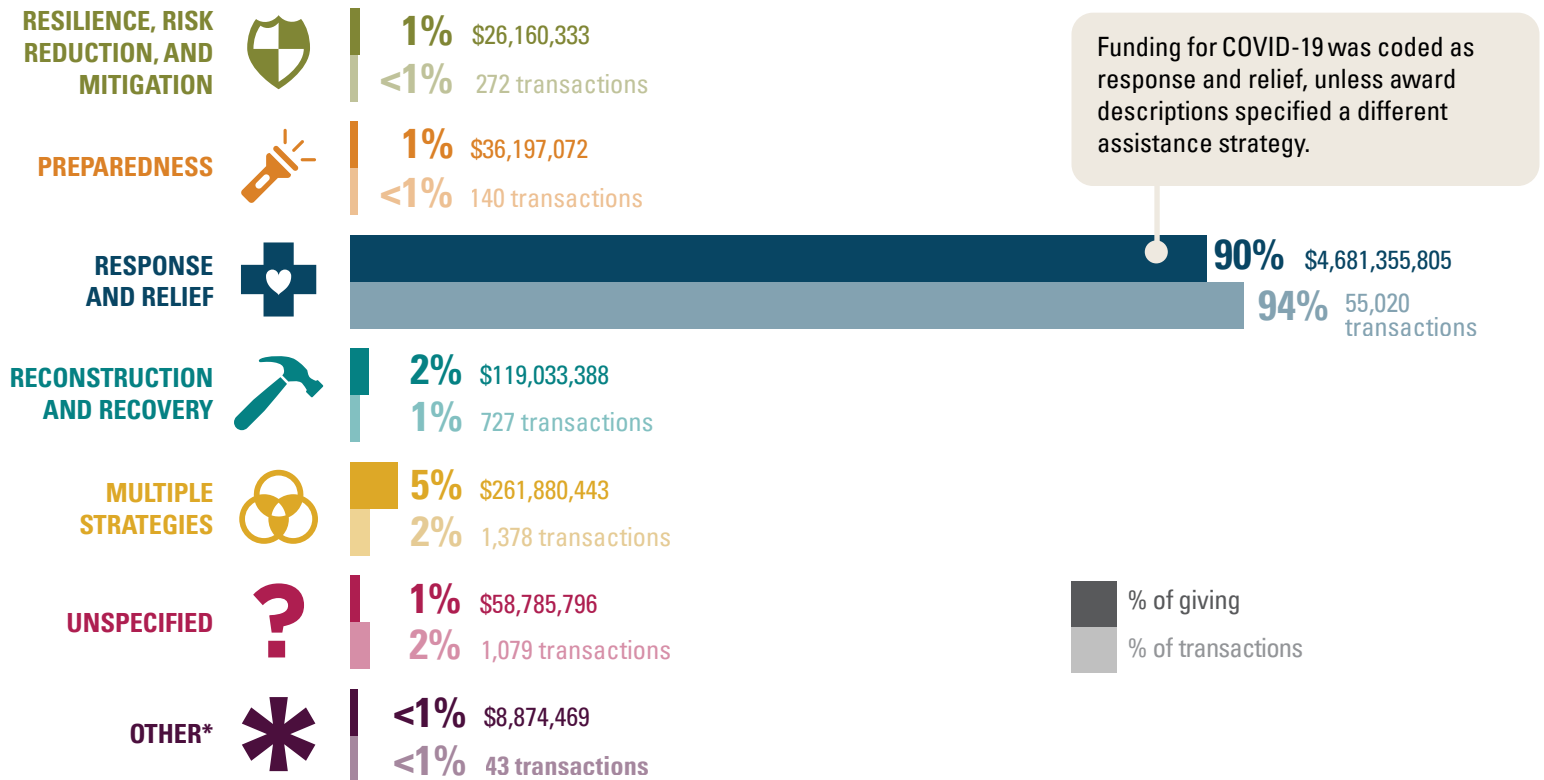
WILDFIRE	36,868,660	554
STORM	34,436,811	454
NATURAL HAZARD – GENERAL*	13,670,335	131
FLOOD	5,529,577	178
DROUGHT	2,206,976	26
EARTHQUAKE	1,376,276	52
EXTREME TEMPERATURE	584,886	1
MASS MOVEMENT	112,650	11
VOLCANO	27,523	3

*Includes awards for general or multiple natural hazards and severe weather events.



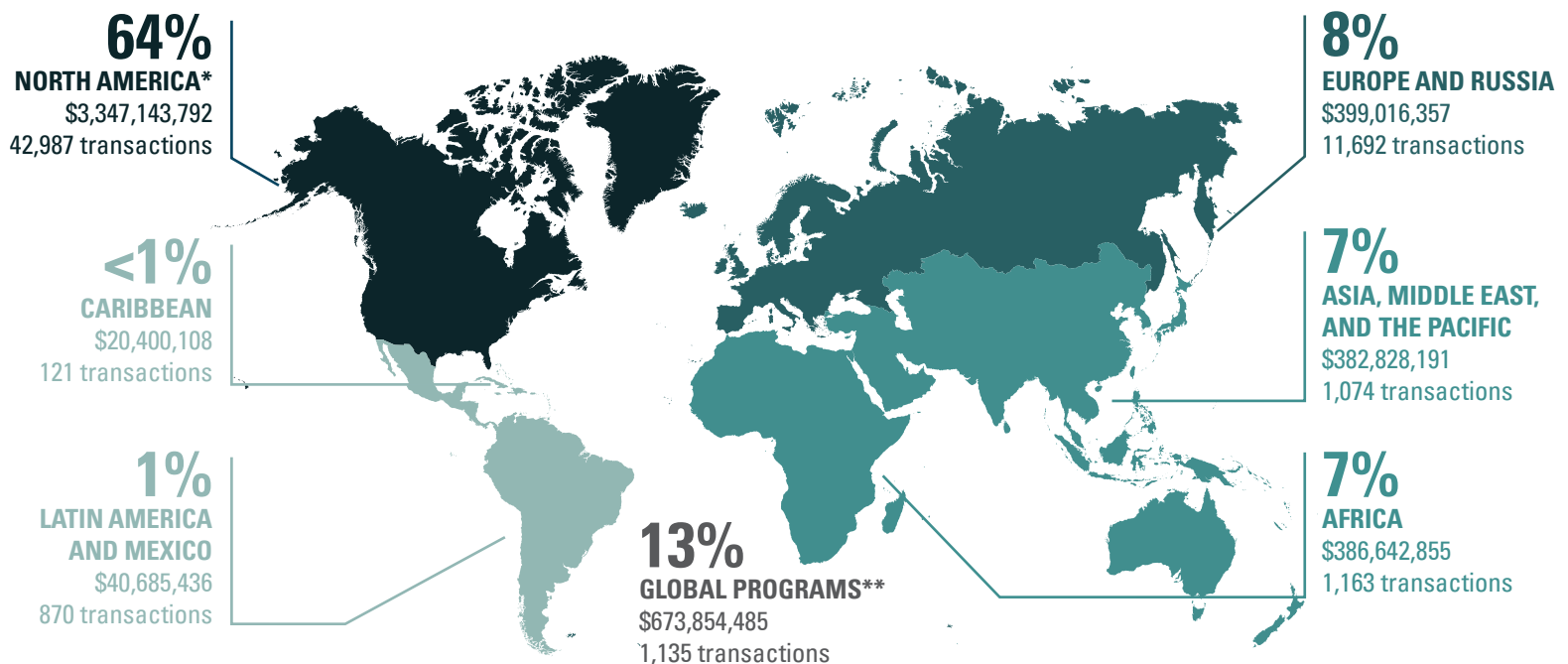
Port of Beirut a few days after the explosion in August 2020.
Photo: Rashid Khreiss

PHILANTHROPIC FUNDING BY DISASTER ASSISTANCE STRATEGY, 2020 TO DATE



*Includes transactions for research, convenings, and other work that could not be categorized with any other assistance strategy.

PHILANTHROPIC FUNDING DISTRIBUTIONS BY REGION, 2020 TO DATE



*North America includes Puerto Rico.

**Funding that is not directed for a specific region but rather provides a global benefit.

An additional 135 transactions totaling nearly \$49 million were not assigned to a region. Transactions may benefit multiple regions and would therefore be counted more than once. As a result, figures add up to more than 100%.

TOP 10 INSTITUTIONAL DONORS, 2020 TO DATE

	Donor	Type*	\$	# of transactions
1	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	IN	485,868,332	422
2	Silicon Valley Community Foundation	CM	245,204,649	2,111
3	Lilly Endowment Inc.	IN	190,485,148	372
4	The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	IN	180,165,227	252
5	Blue Meridian Partners Inc.	PC	138,170,000	31
6	Azim Premji Foundation	OP	130,562,100	1
7	The National Lottery Community Fund	IN	128,314,133	4,774
8	Bloomberg Philanthropies, Inc.	IN	117,364,000	9
9	WellcomeTrust	IN	117,175,381	52
10	The Rockefeller Foundation	IN	113,148,383	87

The India-based foundation committed funds to humanitarian aid and healthcare to combat the pandemic in India.

This fund awarded grants to address COVID-19 in communities across the U.K.

* CM=Community Foundation; IN=Independent Foundation; OP=Operating Foundation; PC=Public Charity

TOP 10 RECIPIENTS OF PHILANTHROPIC FUNDING, 2020 TO DATE

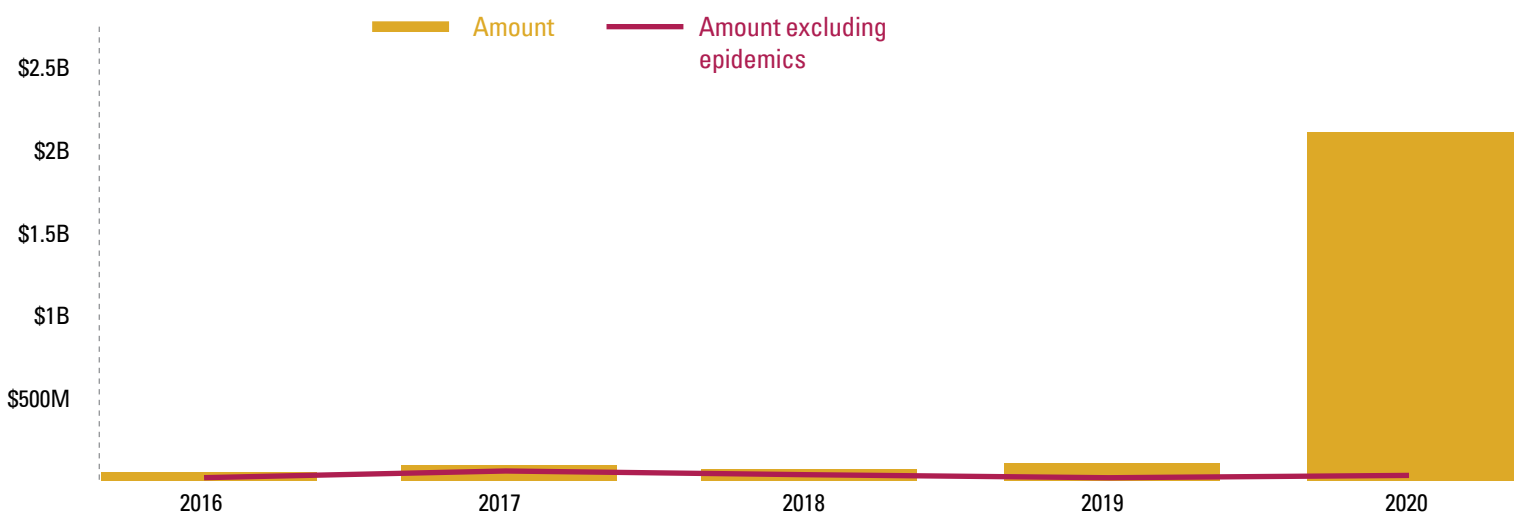
	Recipient	Location	\$	# of transactions
1	COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator	WA	112,000,000	5
2	E4E Relief, LLC	NC	75,000,000	2
3	PM CARES Fund	India	65,281,050	1
4	Feeding America	IL	61,655,801	63
5	World Health Organization	Switzerland	56,404,580	20
6	Boys and Girls Clubs of America	GA	42,955,500	12
7	Farmworker Housing Development Corporation	OR	40,042,000	6
8	Africa Centers for Disease Control & Prevention	Ethiopia	40,000,000	1
9	Meharry Medical College	TN	35,550,000	3
10	Howard University	DC	34,547,428	4

For more about the fund and COVID-19 philanthropy in India, see the case study: blog.candid.org/post/philanthropy-during-covid-19-in-india.

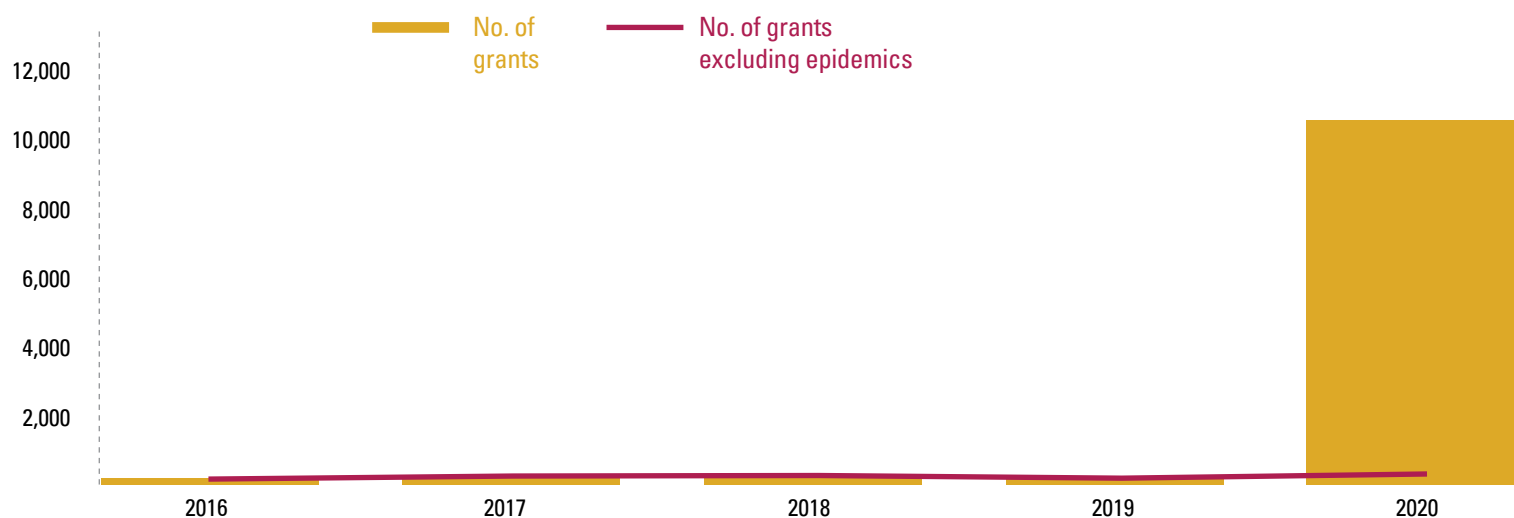
Meharry Medical College and Howard University are both Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the U.S.

LARGE U.S. FOUNDATION FUNDING TRENDS, 2016–2020

TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT



NUMBER OF GRANTS



These charts demonstrate disaster-related funding trends among 222 large U.S. foundations for whom Candid currently has data across five years. (See p. 18, “About institutional philanthropy data,” for more information.) The columns represent all disaster funding, and the line demonstrates funding excluding the disaster category

of epidemics. The enormous increase in funding in 2020 is due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly 98% of disaster-related dollars and 97% of grants awarded in 2020 addressed epidemics. If we were to exclude epidemic funding, disaster giving dollars in 2020 were still higher than in 2019, but less than in 2018 or 2017.

Advocacy as a Grantmaking Strategy

An expanded version of this profile, written by Sally Ray, previously appeared in [CDP's blog](#).

At CDP, we view our grantmaking work through an equity lens. We work to be intentional about funding equitably, but, pre-existing inequities mean we also need to fund equity-building activities, which include advocacy. Funders sometimes shy away from “advocacy” because it often gets conflated with lobbying. But they are different, and it is an important area for us to support given the needs of at-risk populations after disasters.

Over the past several years, we’ve focused on amplifying the voices of the most marginalized to help them secure the resources that are often hidden from them because they aren’t invited to the table or aren’t part of the recovery conversation. The COVID-19 pandemic, social and racial justice unrest in the U.S. and worldwide, the crises at the southern U.S. border, and increasing global humanitarian crises have laid bare the need for systemic change.

Data tell us that a [disaster exacerbates inequities that existed](#) before the devastating event, [widening the wealth gap](#). Those who already have resources before a disaster often find themselves with even more as they recover. The opposite is true for those who live on the margins. Government policies and programs are systemically designed to support recovery for

those who already have resources to help them: homeowners, employed individuals, and residents of affected communities who are documented and white.

As recovery from a disaster begins, we must shine a bright light on the critical issues affecting those most disproportionately affected by the disaster so that communities can focus on providing an equitable and holistic recovery.

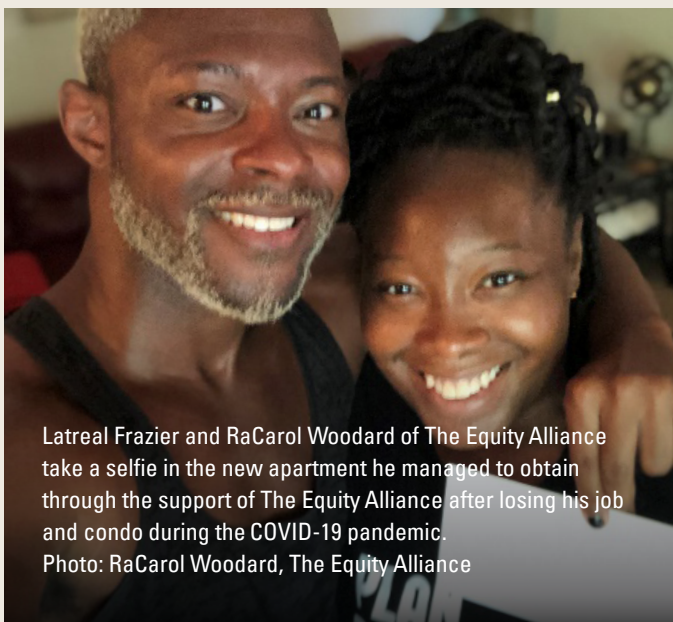
FUNDING ADVOCACY TO AMPLIFY MARGINALIZED VOICES

Advocating for resources and policy changes to benefit marginalized communities is an everyday activity for many organizations. When a disaster strikes, that advocacy work creates a heightened sense of urgency for those they serve.

Though we’ve often granted to organizations with an advocacy focus, the need to spotlight the injustices faced by specific communities and populations appeared for all to see during the height of the pandemic. Our focus turned to amplifying the voices of those most affected by the layered traumas of social and racial justice issues created by the [murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many others](#) in 2020, along with a critical national election and the economic and health crises caused by the virus spread.

Funding organizations like [Color of Change](#) and [The Equity Alliance \(Tennessee\)](#) helped inform Black communities about their voting rights and options during a viral pandemic to fight against the voter suppression that often hides behind “safety” measures. Our grant to the [Emergent Fund](#) helped us reach local, grassroots, people-of-color-led organizations utilizing their power-building strategies, including digital organizing, membership development and outreach, narrative development, and direct action to serve these most marginalized communities.

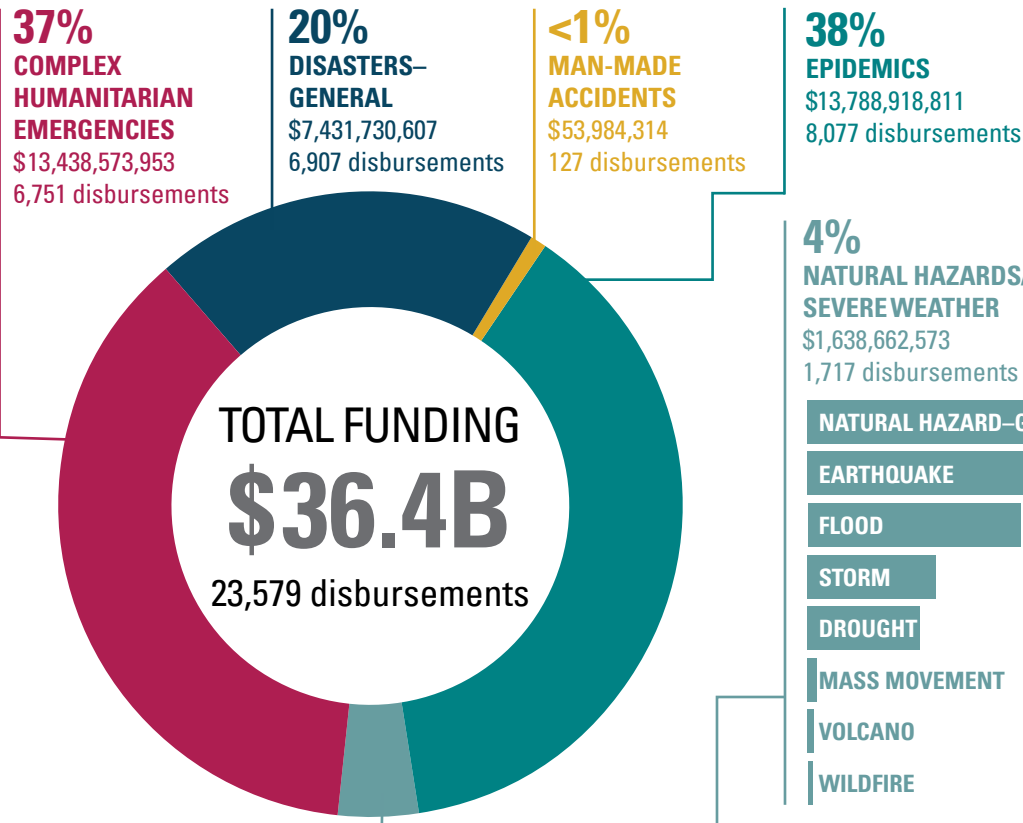
At CDP, we know we must address the issues faced by those most disproportionately affected by disaster before, during, and after and ensure that our government and community leaders are held accountable for supporting an equitable, fair system for recovery. Shining a light on inequities by funding the amplification of issues of inequality is a way for us to create transformative change in the disaster space. We’re grateful to our advocacy partners who help us with that transformation.



Latreal Frazier and RaCarol Woodard of The Equity Alliance take a selfie in the new apartment he managed to obtain through the support of The Equity Alliance after losing his job and condo during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Photo: RaCarol Woodard, The Equity Alliance

Funding From Other Data Sources

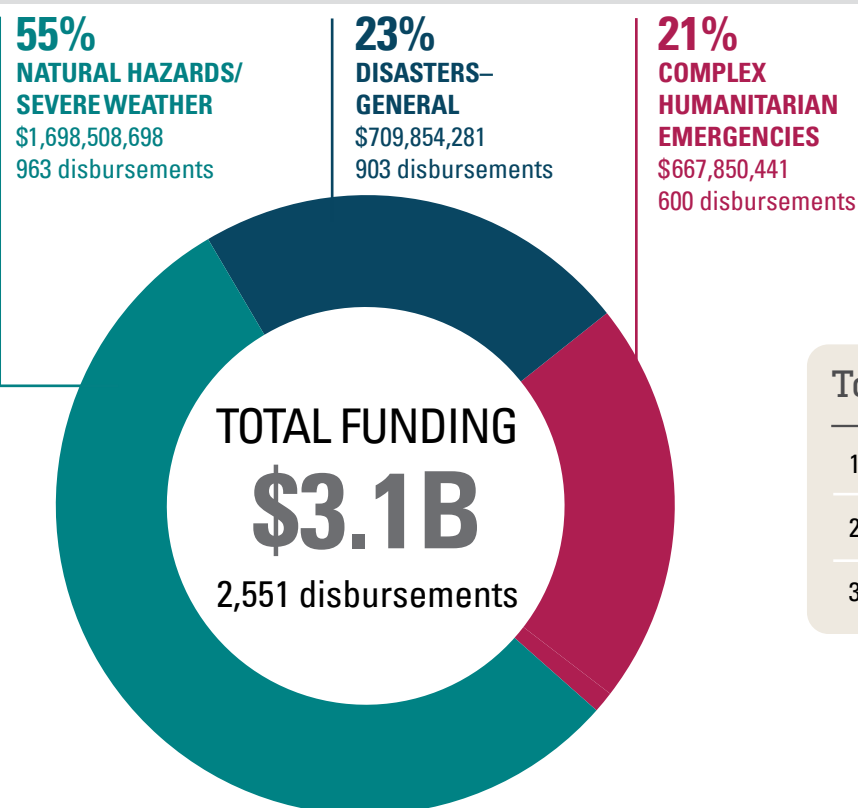
OECD DAC DONORS, 2020



The top donors were the United States, Germany, and the European Union.

*Includes disbursements for general or multiple natural hazards and severe weather events.

NON-OECD DAC DONORS, 2020

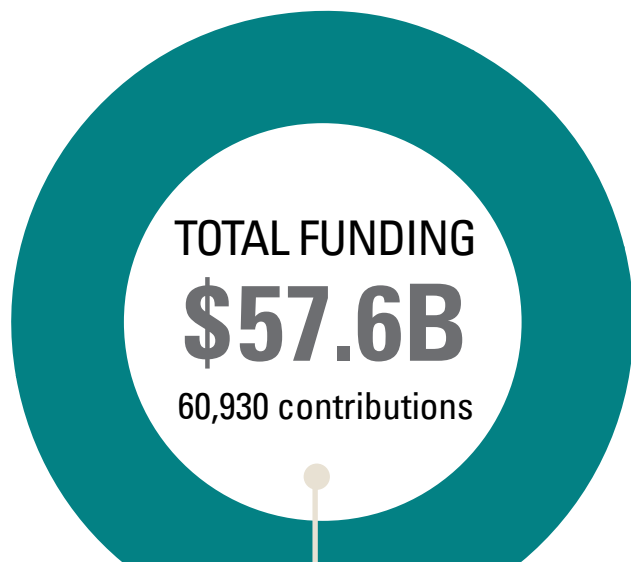


Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar were the top donor countries.

Top Emergencies, 2020

1. COVID-19 Outbreak	\$1,574,386,374
2. Syrian Arab Republic Civil Unrest	\$134,916,641
3. Beirut Port Explosion	\$36,567,975

FEMA, 2020



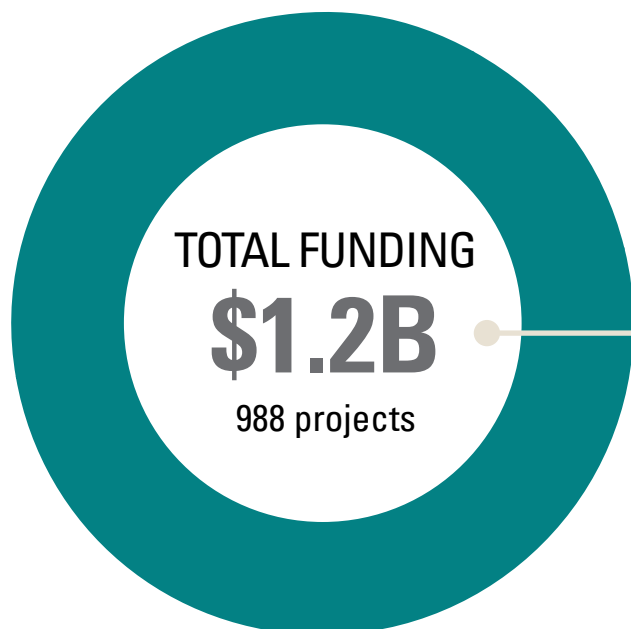
The top recipient locations were Texas, California, and New York.

COVID-19	49,214,439,534	18,405
WILDFIRE	4,632,366,198	31,670
STORM	2,525,601,613	9,158
EARTHQUAKE	696,621,411	756
NATURAL HAZARD—GENERAL*	454,999,999	112
FLOOD	73,943,616	830

*Includes grants for general or multiple natural hazards and severe weather events.

Data was accessed in July 2022 from [fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov). FEMA and the federal government cannot vouch for the data or analyses derived from the data after it has been retrieved from the agency's websites.

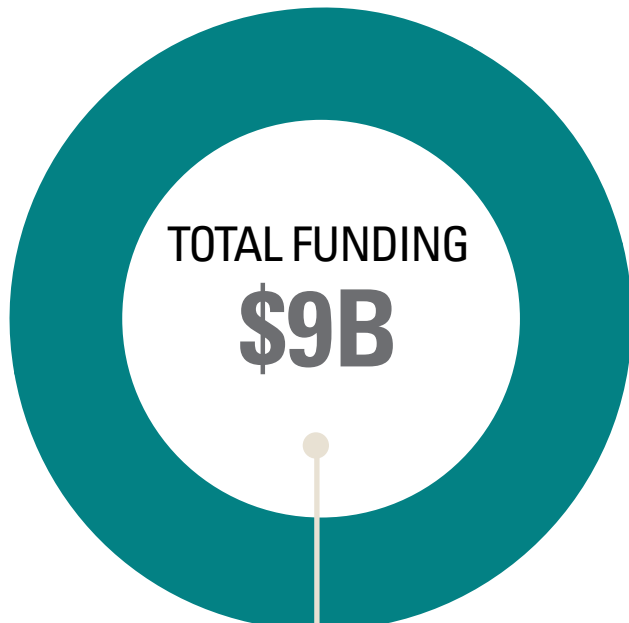
EDA, 2020



In calendar year 2020, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) invested approximately \$453.8 million in 179 projects that supported a variety of activities, including infrastructure, planning, research, technical assistance, and access to capital. EDA's funding helped communities and regions recovering from Hurricanes Maria, Irma, Michael, Florence, Typhoon Yutu, wildfires, flooding, or other major disasters build the capacity for economic development. Projects were funded through both regular EDA appropriations as well as through Disaster Supplemental appropriations. EDA also invested approximately \$779.7 million in 809 projects through the CARES Act that supported activities to help communities recover from economic disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

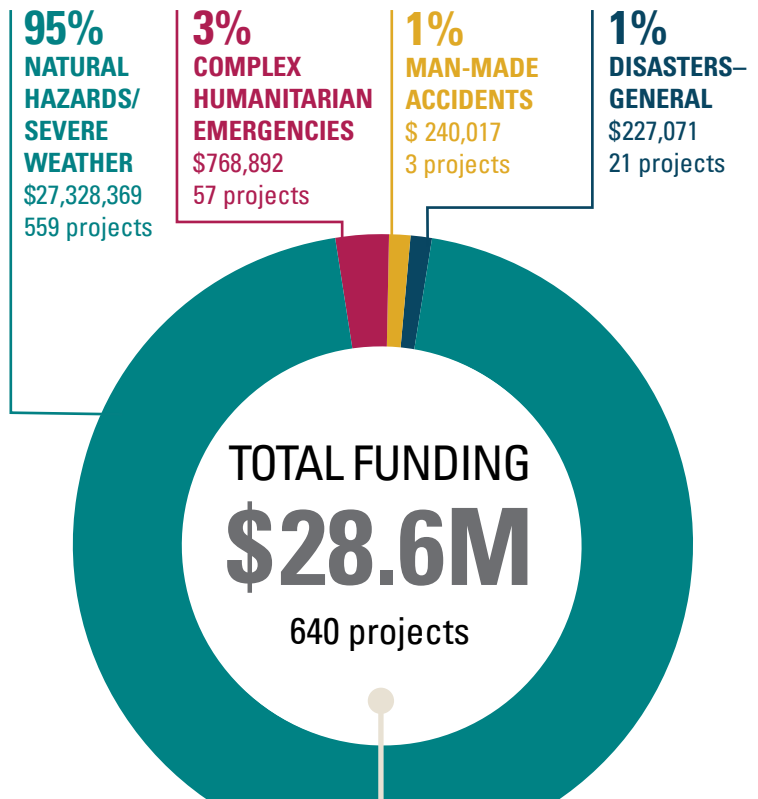
The EDA data should be viewed as a snapshot of the data available at the time of the data request and is subject to any changes or updates as reflected within future reports and data requests. They include, but are not limited to, revisions to the number, dollar amount, program classification, and estimated impacts of specific grant awards.

HUD, 2020



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) distributed \$9 billion in 2020 to states and local governments to recover from 2017 disasters, which included Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, among other events. Grantees directed that money toward eligible disaster recovery activities, including housing rehabilitation, public improvements, and economic development.

GLOBALGIVING, 2020



The top funded disasters were the COVID-19 pandemic, the Australian bushfires, and recovery efforts for Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS, 2020

This section provides a snapshot of money flowing to disasters from donor-advised funds, as Fidelity Charitable and Vanguard Charitable are just two of the many donor-advised fund management entities.

FIDELITY
\$494M
58,000 grants

COVID-19 grants totaled nearly \$490 million from more than 56,600 grants. But this is likely an undercount, as donors were advised to give unrestricted grants without designations and to give support to nonprofits beyond frontline medical and disaster support.

VANGUARD
\$98.9M
11,755 grants

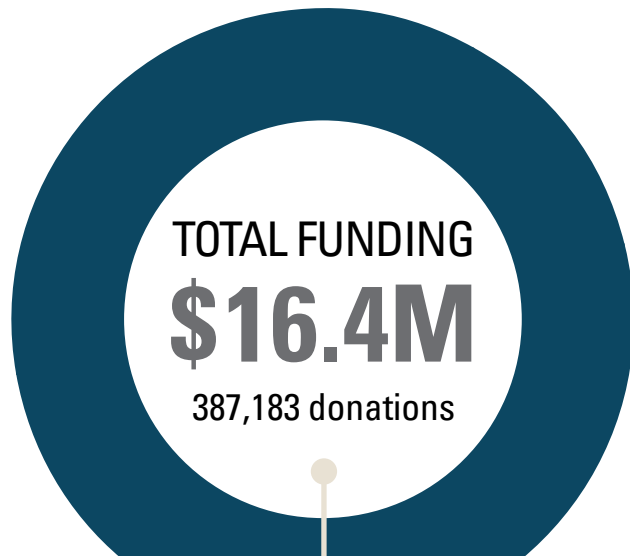
Most donations (\$92.5 million from 10,121 grants) went toward the COVID-19 pandemic.

INDIVIDUAL GIVING PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS, 2020



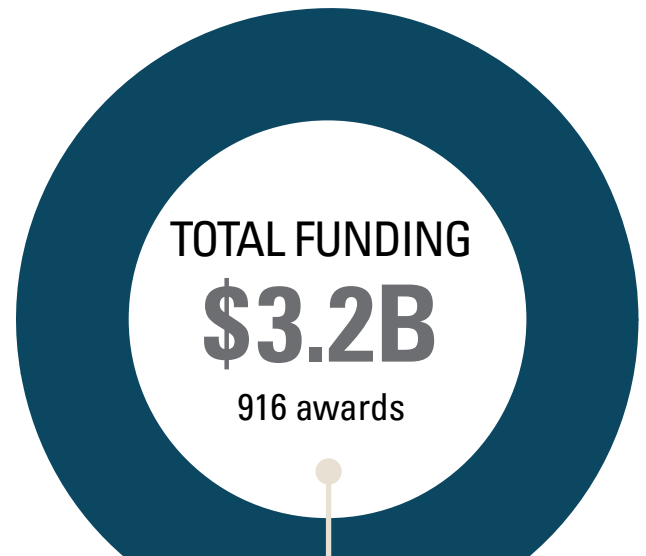
Candid's database contained \$5.8 billion in disaster-related funding from high-net-worth individuals. Most funding was in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

NETWORK FOR GOOD, 2020



Of the \$695 million in donations made through Network for Good's online platform in 2020, \$16.4 million went to disaster-serving organizations. This amount represents 2% of total giving on the platform.

CORPORATE GIVING PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS, 2020



Candid's analysis of corporate public announcements found \$3.2 billion in disaster-related funding from corporate giving programs. Separately, \$5.3 billion was announced in the form of pledges, or announced intentions to award a monetary or in-kind contribution. Most funding was in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

CORPORATE GIVING TRENDS FROM CECP, 2020

Disaster Giving by Industry, 2020

Health Care	262,336,800
Consumer Staples	95,064,000
Financials	92,918,700
Consumer Discretionary	64,800,000
Technology	51,368,400
Energy	35,910,000
Utilities	23,787,400
Materials	12,547,700
Industrials	11,455,500

APPROXIMATELY
\$650M

According to survey data in *Giving in Numbers: 2021 Edition*, published by Chief Executives for Corporate Purpose (CECP), 161 of the world's largest companies directed an estimated \$650 million toward disaster relief in 2020, a \$500 million increase from 2019. This unprecedented growth was primarily due to companies' efforts to alleviate the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Median total community investment allocated toward COVID-19 response in 2020 was \$3.9 million. The consumer staples industry allocated the highest ratio of total community investments toward COVID-19 response (31%) and social justice/racial equity (4%).

Capacity Building

Capacity building before or after a disaster is a critical area that funders often overlook. The Center for Disaster Philanthropy recognizes that staffing and technology are just two of the many other components vital to an effective and sustainable nonprofit organization. As such, grants that build and strengthen the capacity of an organization or community are common at CDP.

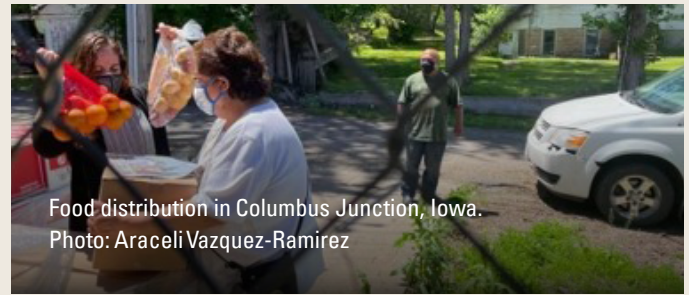
Soon after the COVID-19 pandemic started, CDP recognized that rural communities in the Midwest were suffering more acutely from the impacts of the virus. These areas are home to several meatpacking plants and many immigrant communities. In response, CDP awarded grants to organizations in four states in the Midwest to hire COVID-19 Navigators. These navigators conducted outreach and provided assistance to local, non-English speaking, and underserved communities.

Columbus Junction, Iowa, is a rural town of approximately 1,900 residents with a large number of Latino, Asian, and African immigrants who work at the Tyson meatpacking plant located there. COVID-19 hit the plant hard early into the pandemic and it was the first Tyson facility to [close from an outbreak](#). Shortly after the plant reopened in April 2020, officials indicated that [more than 500](#) employees had tested positive and two had died.

The [League of United Latin American Citizens](#) and the Quad City Latino Foundation hired [Araceli Vazquez-Ramirez as a full-time community advocate](#) to work with the Latinx and Chin community members originally from Myanmar in Southeast Asia.

Araceli's position was funded by a CDP grant to connect individuals and households with culturally appropriate resources and advocate with other service providers to ensure all services were accessible, no matter the individual's primary language.

Araceli connected community members with food, rental/utility assistance, and health/vaccination support while also addressing other unmet needs. She partnered with [Team Vegan](#) for multiple food distribution opportunities and obtained funding and training to operate a food pantry in the community. The work also included a partnership with the university system in Iowa to provide health services and therapeutic opportunities, including some in the schools for students, teachers, and



Food distribution in Columbus Junction, Iowa.
Photo: Araceli Vazquez-Ramirez

families. The program was so successful it was renewed multiple times and received additional money from other funders. Araceli continues in her role as of the writing of this report.

This was just one of nearly 10 COVID-19 Navigators hired through CDP's [Midwest Early Recovery Fund](#). But that was not the only capacity-building activity CDP supported in response to 2020 disasters.

The 2019–2020 Australian bushfire season was devastating. While many people remember it because of the significant impact on the koala population and habitat, it also affected many small, rural communities. The [Foundation for Regional and Rural Renewal](#) (FRRR) combined CDP's grant of over \$500,000 with other donations to make nearly 250 sub-grants ranging from \$10,000–\$25,000 to small community groups in areas affected by the fires.

In the U.S., the [Great Plains Tribal Leaders' Health Board](#) (GPTLHB) works with 18 tribal communities in four states by combining their public health know-how with their relationships with tribal partners and health and human service agencies. In mid-2020, GPTLHB quickly established an emergency operations center called We are Warriors Emergency Operations Center. CDP awarded a [capacity-building grant for COVID-19 response](#) and ongoing disaster-related leadership to boost staffing and train existing team members. The emergency operations center continues to serve as a regional hub assisting reservation-based centers with communications, resource coordination support, and training.

By funding capacity building, we are not just responding to an existing disaster, but are preparing and strengthening the community in its ability to respond and recover from current and future events.

Maximize Your Impact

For the past couple of years, CDP has drafted a series of recommendations to help funders improve the state of disaster philanthropy. These often share similar themes: Support equity. Know your local organizations. Be flexible. Provide unrestricted funding. Fund recovery. Support racialized communities. [Share your data with Candid](#).

Yet, year after year, the data shows that not much has changed when it comes to how funders respond to disasters. We have seen some glimpses of hope, including small increases in giving in specific categories and tiny changes in funder behavior. In the 2014 report, which looks at disaster giving in 2012, 46.2% of philanthropic dollars went to response and relief, while 11.3% was granted for recovery and reconstruction. In this year's report, which examines 2020 giving, response and relief received 90% of funding. While COVID-19 did move most funders to respond to the immediate crisis, we need to acknowledge that over the years, these numbers have largely stayed the same.

Something has to change.

ALL FUNDERS ARE DISASTER FUNDERS.

We've been saying this slogan at CDP for 12 years, and we saw it sink in more during the initial response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It does not matter what, where, or who you fund—at some point, that community or that population is going to be impacted by a disaster. Because of COVID-19, all donors are supporting populations who have been impacted by a disaster in some way.

And the reality is that there is more to worry about than just the pandemic. Natural hazards and extreme weather events are increasing. They are getting bigger, longer, and more severe, with increased dangers and devastation. There is no fire season in California anymore—officials recognized that fire risk exists year-round. Hurricane season dates have not changed since 1964, but [numerous events have happened outside](#) of those dates.

We are quickly reaching a point where if you are not currently thinking about how to fund a disaster, it is too late. The facts are that climate change has changed the landscape for natural hazards and extreme weather events. We need all funders to see themselves as integral in helping communities—especially communities of color and other underserved communities—rebuild stronger after a disaster. If your community has been lucky enough not to have been

devastated by a natural hazard, now is the time to fund efforts to mitigate risks and increase people's capacity to prepare and recover.

The effects of climate change are impacting [most \(85%\) of the people in the world](#) in some way right now, and it is only going to get worse.

- If we do nothing, more than [100 million people](#) will suffer from extreme poverty because of climate change by the end of the current decade.
- The daily lives of at least [3.3 billion people](#) are currently highly vulnerable to climate change.
- [Every year](#), 21.5 million people are displaced by extreme weather. By 2050, more than 1.2 billion people may be displaced because of climate change and disasters.
- Almost [half of the children](#) in the world—one billion kids—live in one of the 33 countries that UNICEF has classified as “extremely high-risk” to the impacts of climate change.
- It is anticipated that between 2030 and 2050, there will be a quarter of a million additional deaths every year linked to climate change. The [direct costs of damage to health](#) will be \$2-4 billion dollars by the end of this decade alone.
- If nothing is done, by 2070, over [three billion people](#) will live in places that are too hot for humans.

We see the impacts daily. We worry when others do not. While this report focuses on 2020, as we write this in 2022, we are reeling from two major hurricanes hitting the U.S. within weeks of each other, extensive drought around the world, and we're watching as several countries are quickly moving to the highest levels of famine we have ever seen. Yet, the response from the philanthropic community has been minimal.

Now is the time to act. More money is needed, and yes, it needs to be all the things we have said before: equitable, flexible, locally based, and focused on recovery. Funders need to prepare for the crises that are occurring in their communities and around the world. CDP has [resources to help you get started](#). There is no better time to begin than now.

About institutional philanthropy data

The analysis of institutional philanthropy is based on Candid's database as of September 16, 2022. The data is sourced from funders that report their grantmaking directly to Candid; published media, including English-language news and press releases; and publicly available data sources, including foundation websites and IRS Forms 990 and 990-PF.

The data set includes cash grants, grants to individuals, and in-kind gifts from private and community foundations and public charities in FY 2020. Grants to individuals totaled \$2.5 million, less than 1% of total funding. U.S. and non-U.S. donors are included; 93% of donors in the data set are based in the United States. For U.S. community foundations, discretionary grants are included as well as donor-advised grants when provided by the foundation. To avoid double-counting transactions, grants to grantmakers in the data set are excluded, except in the lists of top donors and recipients.

Unlike previous disaster philanthropy reports, the analysis of institutional philanthropy excludes pledges (announced intentions to award a monetary or in-kind contribution). Candid identified an additional \$3.1 billion from 106 pledges by foundations and public charities in 2020. This year's analysis also excludes disaster funding from high-net-worth individuals, due to the volume of data collected from public announcements in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Aggregate funding by individual donors in Candid's database is presented on p. 14, and aggregate funding by corporate giving programs is presented on p. 15.

Like last year's disaster philanthropy analysis, full coverage of the philanthropic landscape in 2020 was stymied by delays in data collection. For more, please see the Candid blog post, [The data/crisis catch-22: How the pandemic created a social sector data gap](#). Acknowledging this data gap, we present analysis of 2020 institutional philanthropy as funding "to date."

Five-year trends in disaster giving by U.S. institutional donors (p. 10) is determined by a matched set of 222 foundations, for which Candid has comprehensive grants data from 2016 through 2020. This matched set controls for annual variations in data collection and provides a reasonable and reliable measure of actual change. The data set includes grants of \$10,000 or more by U.S. private and community foundations. It excludes grants to individuals as well as loans and program-related investments.

This analysis revisits data used in previously published reports on philanthropy's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. CDP and Candid published [Philanthropy and COVID-19 in the first half of 2020](#) (August 2020), [Philanthropy and COVID-19: Measuring one year of giving](#) (March 2021), and [Philanthropy and COVID-19: Examining two years of giving](#) (May 2022). This report puts institutional funding for COVID-19 in the context of other disaster-related philanthropy. Differences in totals can be attributed to additional data collection as well as different ways of analyzing the data—including separating corporate giving programs and individual donors and separating grants from pledges.



Inspection of Rea-Vaya buses and stations as part of COVID-19 safety measures. Photo: South Africa Government Communication Information Systems

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-

Cover Photo: A healthcare worker in the Dominican Republic putting on her face mask.

Photo: SJ Objio

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