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Before disasters strike: Rethinking philanthropy for a changing climate



Photo: House submerged in orange, polluted water in Romania, May 2026. (Credit: iuliu illes on Unsplash)

July 23, 2026

CENTER FOR DISASTER PHILANTHROPY



Moderator



Sharad Aggarwal

Vice President of Fund Management
& Coalition Building

Center for Disaster Philanthropy

How to participate

- Live captioning is available.
- Use the Q&A box at the bottom of your screen to submit questions.





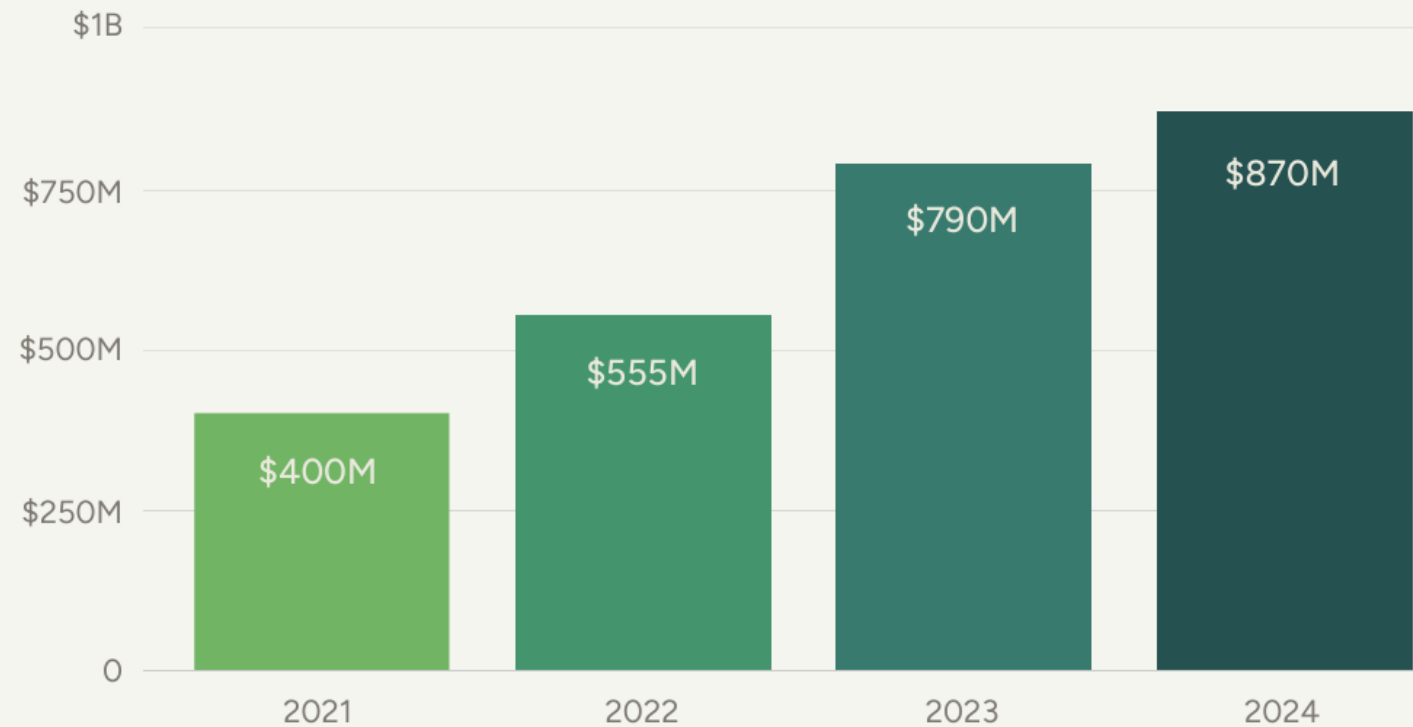
WEBINAR GOALS

Understand why proactive and anticipatory strategies are essential for addressing climate-related disasters

Learn more about practical approaches to funding community adaptation and resilience

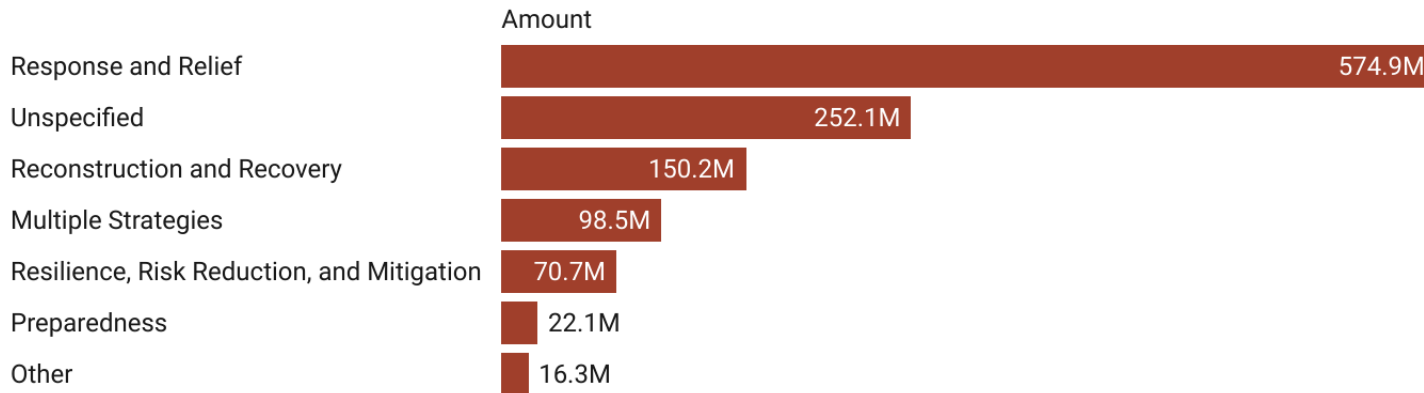
Foundation funding for adaptation totaled an estimated \$870 million in 2024, which represents around a 10% increase year over year compared to 2023 and an overall increase of 120% since 2021 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Foundation funding (USD) for climate change adaptation, 2021 to 2024



Source: ClimateWorks Foundation, *Foundation funding for climate change adaptation and resilience 2025*

Philanthropic Funding by Disaster Assistance Strategy in 2023



Based on Candid data as of April 2025. The "Other" assistance strategy includes transactions for research, convenings and other work that could not be categorized with any other assistance strategy. The "Unspecified" assistance strategy means that the transaction description did not specify an assistance strategy.

Chart: Center for Disaster Philanthropy • Source: Candid • Created with Datawrapper

A notable jump in resilience funding

The \$70.7M (6%) share of funding for resilience, risk reduction and mitigation is a three-fold increase compared to 2022.

A small increase in recovery funding

At 12.7% (\$150.2M), reconstruction and recovery saw its largest share of funding since 2018.



KEY TERMS

Anticipatory action: Taking steps before a forecasted hazard or crisis occurs to reduce its potential impacts on people, communities and livelihoods.

Adaptation: Adjusting systems, policies, infrastructure and practices to reduce vulnerability and build resilience to current and future risks.

Mitigation: Taking measures to reduce the likelihood, severity or underlying drivers of hazards and disasters.

Preparedness: Building plans, capacities, resources and partnerships in advance so communities can respond effectively when disasters occur.

Speakers



Scott Onder

Chief Investment and
Innovation Officer

Mercy Corps



Jessica Hitt

Senior Associate Director,
Adaptation and Resilience

ClimateWorks Foundation

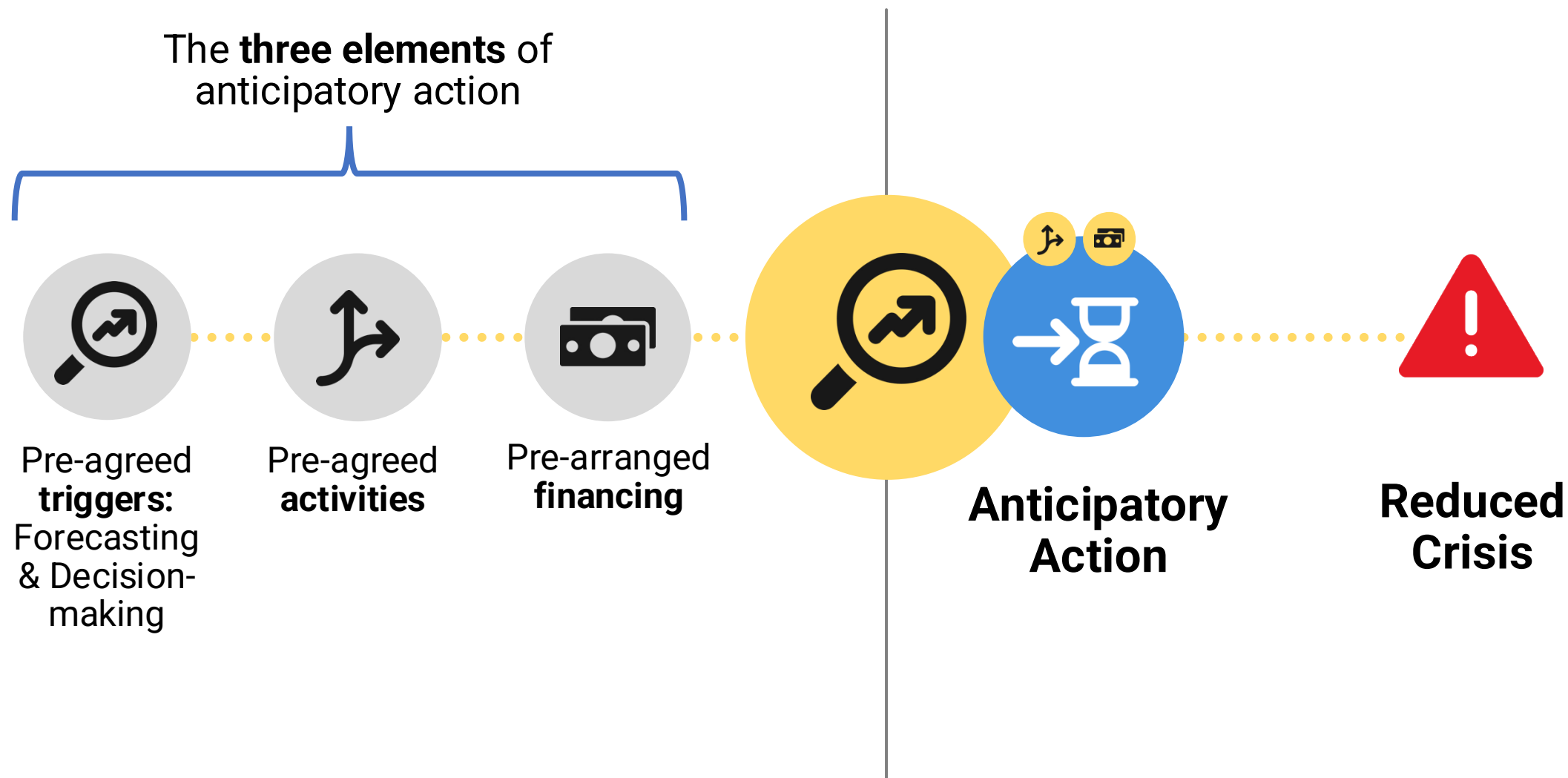


Greg Puley

Chief of the Climate and
Innovation Section

United Nations Office for the
Coordination of Humanitarian
Affairs

What does Anticipatory Action look like



Anticipatory Action frameworks in place globally in 2024

In 2024, there were 154 active AA frameworks in 48 countries with **\$248m** in pre-arranged funding worldwide by numerous humanitarian actors.

50% of the global funding pre-arranged for AA in 2024 was provided by CERF (\$123.7m) making CERF the single largest provider of AA funding globally.

The CBPF provided \$10m from the AHF (=4% of total).
OCHA's share of global funding pre-arranged for AA was 54% (\$133.7m combined).



OCHA-facilitated anticipatory action portfolio





Key takeaways

Climate change modifies the landscape.

It affects not only the frequency and severity of disasters, but the role philanthropy can play.

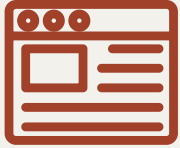
The tools to act earlier already exist.

Local knowledge, climate forecasting and anticipatory financing equip funders to engage before disasters strike.

Every funder can begin becoming climate-informed.

Climate-informed philanthropy isn't only for climate-focused foundations; it is about strengthening your impact on the communities you care about.

Expert Resources



Disaster Updates

- Weekly “What we’re watching” post
- Disaster profiles
- Blog posts on topical issues



Recovery Funds

- Long-term recovery focus
- Community-driven, equity-focused and holistic grantmaking



Expert Advisory Services

- Real-time disaster giving guidance
- Disaster giving planning
- Organizational curriculum planning and delivery



Resources

- Issue insights
- Research and evaluations
- Webinars



Coalition Building

- Bring funders together to collaborate, learn and take coordinated action

disasterphilanthropy.org

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For additional information or questions, contact:
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