Measuring the State of Disaster Philanthropy 2018: Data to Drive Decisions

Foundation Center and the Center for Disaster Philanthropy

DATA TO DRIVE DECISIONS
Executive Summary

Disasters and humanitarian crises affected millions of people globally in 2016. Hurricane Matthew caused widespread devastation in Haiti and several islands in the Caribbean, as well as the southeastern parts of the United States. An earthquake struck the coast of Ecuador in April, the worst natural disaster to hit the country since 1949, killing hundreds and injuring thousands of people. Civil unrest in Syria and Yemen continued, further increasing the number of refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced people.

In the United States, destructive storms and flooding affected Louisiana, West Virginia, Texas, and Maryland. Deadly wildfires burned through thousands of acres of national park in Tennessee. In January 2016, the Obama administration declared a state of emergency over contamination of drinking water in Flint, Michigan.

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 government, corporations, and smaller donors who give through donor-advised funds and online platforms. We analyze funding according to a taxonomy that classifies giving by type of disaster and disaster assistance strategy.

In this year’s report, for the first time, we examine funding beyond the largest U.S. foundations and include in the overall analysis contributions by non-U.S. donors, public charities, and smaller U.S. foundations. This enables us to see a much broader picture of institutional disaster philanthropy.

Key findings from our 2016 analysis:

- Natural disasters accounted for 44 percent of disaster funding; 16 percent was for flooding, particularly in Louisiana. Man-made accidents received 15 percent, with several large grants addressing the Flint water crisis.

- Among disaster assistance strategies, 42 percent of dollars were for response and relief efforts. Seventeen percent went toward reconstruction and recovery—more than half of this was related, again, to the Flint water crisis. Eight percent went toward resilience measures, and five percent was allocated for disaster preparedness.

- A five-year trends analysis of the largest 1,000 U.S. foundations demonstrates that:
  - Foundations contributed an average $150.4 million per year specifically for disasters. Funding spiked in 2014 due to large grants for the Ebola outbreak, then declined over the next two years.
  - Disaster funding was largely focused on natural disasters (59 percent on average). Man-made accidents accounted for no more than 3 percent of dollars every year except in 2016, when funding jumped to 20 percent, due to the Flint water crisis.
  - Response and relief efforts were the most funded assistance strategy across all years, averaging 47 percent of all disaster funding. Recovery efforts increased in 2013 after Superstorm Sandy and in 2016 following the Flint water crisis. Resilience and risk reduction funding increased in 2015 in the wake of the Ebola outbreak.

- Official development assistance by 29 government members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC) totaled $19.6 billion for disasters and humanitarian crises in 2016, a nearly $3 billion increase from the prior year. Non-DAC government donors and multilateral organizations contributed an additional $1.8 billion.
• FEMA distributed $3.7 billion for U.S. disasters in 2016, a $1.5 billion increase from the prior year. HUD (Housing and Urban Development) allocated $352.9 million in recovery efforts.

• Based on available data, corporate giving programs committed at least $148.1 million to disasters and humanitarian crises, through both cash and in-kind donations.

• Development Initiatives, publisher of the Global Humanitarian Assistance Report, reported an estimated $4.1 billion in private donations by individuals for international humanitarian crises.
  
  – Individual donors contributed $8.2 million through donor-advised funds managed by Fidelity Charitable and $661,900 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 $6.8 million in donations to disaster-specific nonprofits. GlobalGiving raised $3.8 million for disasters, supporting 162 projects by 127 organizations.

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.
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. When making funding decisions, foundations can choose to fill gaps and support underfunded areas of the disaster lifecycle. Support for disaster risk reduction and preparedness mitigates the impact of disasters, and many communities need sustained funding for the long road to recovery.

What was the landscape of philanthropic giving to disasters in 2016? We document foundation support and place it in context with other sources of national and 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.

### Data Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Sources</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foundation Center</strong></td>
<td>Comprehensive source of data on U.S. foundation giving with a growing database of global foundations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Creditor Reporting System</strong></td>
<td>Central database for official development assistance from the 29 OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) member states</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) Financial Tracking Service</strong></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><strong>U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)</strong></td>
<td>Detailed information on domestic grants by the U.S. government agency for disasters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)</strong></td>
<td>Aggregated data on disbursements made by the U.S. government agency for disasters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Committee Encouraging Responsive Philanthropy (CECP)</strong></td>
<td>Aggregated data on contributions made by corporations, based on CECP’s Giving in Numbers report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation Corporate Citizenship Center Disaster Corporate Aid Tracker</strong></td>
<td>Key source of data on corporate giving for disasters</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Fidelity</strong></td>
<td>Aggregated data on contributions collected through donor-advised funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vanguard</strong></td>
<td>Aggregated data on contributions collected through donor-advised funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Network for Good</strong></td>
<td>Aggregated data on disaster-designated contributions collected through its software platform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GlobalGiving</strong></td>
<td>Contributions collected through the organization’s online giving platform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Development Initiatives, Global Humanitarian Assistance Report</strong></td>
<td>Resource for understanding humanitarian financing, with an estimate of individual giving for international humanitarian crises</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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:

**Disaster Taxonomy**

**Disaster Types**

**Natural Disaster**
- Drought
- Earthquake/Tsunami
- Epidemic
- Extreme Temperature
- Flood
- Mass Movement
- Storm
- Volcano
- Wildfire

**Complex Humanitarian Emergency**

**Man-Made Accident**

**General**

**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 Dashboard**

Interact with aggregated 2016 funding data, and compare with previous years [disasterphilanthropy.foundationcenter.org](http://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](http://disasterphilanthropy.org/state-of-disaster-philanthropy-map)

**Disaster Philanthropy Playbook**

Learn about the best ways to allocate resources for disasters [disasterplaybook.org](http://disasterplaybook.org)

For more information about this report, or to learn about how to increase the effectiveness of your philanthropic dollars, please contact [tanya.gulliver-garcia@disasterphilanthropy.org](mailto:tanya.gulliver-garcia@disasterphilanthropy.org).
About the Data

This year’s analysis includes funding not only by the largest U.S. foundations but by smaller U.S. foundations, public charities, and non-U.S. donors. This enables us to see the broadest possible picture of disaster-related grantmaking. The data are based on Foundation Center’s database of publishable transactions and includes foundation-administered programs and program-related investments; grants to individuals are excluded. For community foundations, discretionary grants are included, as well as donor-advised grants when provided by the foundation. To avoid double-counting of transactions, grants to grantmakers in the dataset are excluded, except in the list of top grantmakers. Because the data this year are drawn from a broader database than in prior years, we caution against making comparisons of philanthropic funding with previous years. For an analysis of trends over the last five years, please see U.S. Foundation Funding Trends on page 9.
The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation awarded $1 million each to Caltech, the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Washington, Seattle to develop and enhance earthquake early warning systems.

More than half of recovery funding was related to the Flint water crisis. The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation awarded 16 grants related to health interventions, early childhood education, and economic development.

As a result, figures add up to more than 100 percent.

Grants may benefit multiple regions and would therefore be counted more than once. As a result, figures add up to more than 100 percent.

Funding in 2016 shifted back to North America. In previous years, proportionately more funding was directed for Africa in response to the Ebola outbreak.
### TOP 10 INSTITUTIONAL DONORS, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DONOR</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>TYPE*</th>
<th>$</th>
<th># OF TRANSACTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>IN</td>
<td>$22,643,419</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Stewart Mott Foundation</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>IN</td>
<td>$21,111,559</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret A. Cargill Foundation</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>IN</td>
<td>$8,865,851</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford Foundation</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>IN</td>
<td>$6,213,000</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.K. Kellogg Foundation</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>IN</td>
<td>$5,714,960</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Express Foundation</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>CS</td>
<td>$5,300,364</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way of Greater St. Louis</td>
<td>MO</td>
<td>PC</td>
<td>$5,231,939</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Lottery Fund</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>IN</td>
<td>$5,080,804</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The UPS Foundation</td>
<td>GA</td>
<td>CS</td>
<td>$4,621,334</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilly Endowment</td>
<td>IN</td>
<td>IN</td>
<td>$4,000,000</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*CS=Corporate Foundation; IN=Independent Foundation; PC=Public Charity

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has consistently been the top donor over the last five years of our analysis.

The United Way of Greater St. Louis, the only donor that is a public charity on this list, directed all seven grants towards relief efforts for the Louisiana floods.

The Big Lottery Fund distributes funds raised by the U.K. National Lottery and awards grants to U.K. organizations.

The vast majority of grantmakers (97 percent) are based in the United States. The 33 non-U.S. funders are located in Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Finland, France, Ghana, Hong Kong, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, South Africa, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom.

### TOP 10 RECIPIENTS OF PHILANTHROPIC FUNDING, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECIPIENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>$</th>
<th># OF TRANSACTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Foundation of Greater Flint</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>$18,970,897</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Red Cross National Headquarters</td>
<td>DC</td>
<td>$15,787,686</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Give2Asia</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>$5,450,000</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Disaster Preparedness Center</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>$5,195,420</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build Change</td>
<td>CO</td>
<td>$4,297,752</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Red Cross of Missouri</td>
<td>MO</td>
<td>$3,999,611</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power of Nutrition</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baton Rouge Area Foundation</td>
<td>LA</td>
<td>$2,928,788</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxfam America</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>$2,772,128</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>$2,363,998</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, FL

We do not formally include terrorism or mass shootings in our disaster funding taxonomy, as they straddle the boundary between disasters and crimes. They are, nonetheless, tragedies that spark generosity and compassionate giving. Recognizing their potential relevance to funders, we gathered supplemental data on the ways in which foundations and other grantmaking entities responded to the aftermath of the horrific shooting that took place on June 12, 2016 at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, FL.

We identified 55 institutional pledges and transactions totaling $7.5 million in response to the tragedy. Twenty-six were directed to Strengthen Orlando, a Florida-based nonprofit affiliated with the OneOrlando Fund, created by Mayor Buddy Dyer in response to the shooting. The OneOrlando Fund focused its grantmaking on survivors and victims’ families and distributed a total of $31.7 million. Fifty-five percent (30 pledges/transactions) came from corporations, either through their corporate giving programs or their foundations. The two largest gifts were $1 million each: The Walt Disney Company Contributions Program and the NBCUniversal Contributions Program both announced gifts to the OneOrlando Fund.

The U.S. Department of Justice also committed $8.5 million to assist victims, witnesses, and first responders; the grant was distributed through the Florida Office of the Attorney General’s Department of Legal Affairs.

Memorials left at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, FL.
Photo: Walter creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0
Foundation Center and the Center for Disaster Philanthropy have tracked grantmaking for disasters and humanitarian crises over the past five years. What can we learn from a multiyear analysis of funding by 1,000 of the largest U.S. foundations?

Funding tends to be episodic and dependent upon the crisis. Large U.S. foundations contributed an average $150.4 million per year for disasters. There was a dramatic spike in 2014 due to large grants for the Ebola outbreak, after which funding declined over the next two years. Natural disasters (59 percent on average) was the largest focus for disaster funders. In 2015, foundations increased funding for complex humanitarian emergencies (17 percent) in response to the Syrian war and the refugee crisis. Man-made accidents accounted for no more than 3 percent of dollars every year except in 2016, when funding jumped to 20 percent, due to contamination of drinking water in Flint, MI.

Response and relief efforts are the most funded assistance strategy. Across all years, funding for response and relief averaged 47 percent of all disaster funding, peaking in 2014 to 73 percent due to large grants addressing the Ebola outbreak. Recovery efforts increased in 2013 after Superstorm Sandy (19 percent) and in 2016 following the Flint water crisis (19 percent). Resilience and risk reduction funding increased slightly in 2015 in the wake of the Ebola outbreak (17 percent).

### U.S. Foundation Funding Trends, 2012–2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total No. of Grants</th>
<th>Total $ Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>884</td>
<td>$111M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>906</td>
<td>$117M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>$226M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>740</td>
<td>$158M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>704</td>
<td>$140M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**About the Data**

This five-year analysis is based on all grants of $10,000 or more reported by 1,000 of the largest U.S. foundations. The dataset accounts for approximately half of the total grant dollars awarded by the universe of independent, corporate, community, and grantmaking operating foundations in the U.S. The data do not include gifts by corporate giving programs or public charities. The data also exclude grants, fellowships, or awards directly to individuals; grants paid by private foundations to U.S. community foundations (to avoid double counting of dollars); and loans or program-related investments.

According to the chart, each year, specific disasters impact funding trends. For example, in 2012, the Flint water crisis and in 2014, the Ebola outbreak were critical events that influenced the funding patterns. The chart also highlights that response and relief efforts averaged 47 percent of disaster-related funding. After two years of proportionately low funding, reconstruction and recovery efforts rose to 2013 levels.


Response and relief efforts averaged 47 percent of disaster-related funding. After two years of proportionately low funding, reconstruction and recovery efforts rose to 2013 levels.
Other Data Sources

OEC DAC DONORS, 2016

62% COMPLEX HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES
$12,095,498,621
5,521 disbursements

28% DISASTERS - GENERAL
$5,524,734,097
6,265 disbursements

<1% MAN-MADE ACCIDENTS
$1,602,872
12 disbursements

10% NATURAL DISASTERS
$1,972,175,482
1,763 disbursements

The top donors were the United States, EU Institutions, and Germany.

Syria was the top recipient country of funding, followed by Iraq, South Sudan, and Turkey.

UN OCHA, NON-DAC DONORS, 2016

80% COMPLEX HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES
$1,473,740,824
855 contributions

16% DISASTERS - GENERAL
$286,177,959
551 contributions

4% NATURAL DISASTERS
$72,036,313
168 contributions

The United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait were the top donors.

Top Emergencies, 2016

1. Yemen
$ 854,769,065

2. Syria
$ 215,751,929

3. Jordan
$ 120,318,372

4. Iraq
$ 119,741,357

5. Pakistan
$ 55,316,427

The dataset included contributions totaling $140,669,207 with unidentified recipients.
FEMA, 2016

**TOTAL GIVING**

$3.7B

12,442 contributions

FEMA distributed $2.3 billion for floods, $736.8 million for storms, and $714.3 million toward wildfires. The top recipient states were Louisiana, Texas, and South Carolina.

HUD, 2016

**TOTAL GIVING**

$352.9M

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) distributed $352.9 million in 2016 to states and local governments to recover from 2015 disasters, which included Hurricanes Joaquin and Patricia, among other events. Grantees directed that money toward eligible disaster recovery activities, including housing rehabilitation, public improvements, economic development, etc.

Nearly 400 men and women from the 578th Brigade Engineer Battalion train in the hills of Camp Roberts to battle wildfires. Photo: California National Guard creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0
CORPORATE GIVING PROGRAMS, 2016

APPROXIMATELY $148.1M


Giving by Industry, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Care</td>
<td>$60,900,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financials</td>
<td>$18,400,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrials</td>
<td>$14,935,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer Discretionary</td>
<td>$13,073,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer Staples</td>
<td>$12,505,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>$10,506,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>$7,023,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>$6,600,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>$2,846,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>$1,261,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MORE ON CORPORATE GIVING TRENDS FROM FOUNDATION CENTER AND THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

$54.2M | 516 pledges  
Includes cash and in-kind gifts that were assigned a monetary value

- **CHENNAI FLOODING**  
  $31,526,367  
  114 pledges

- **LOUISIANA FLOODING**  
  $5,578,886  
  58 pledges

- **HURRICANE MATTHEW**  
  $2,473,796  
  32 pledges

- **JAPAN EARTHQUAKE**  
  $2,154,394  
  8 pledges

In India, corporate social responsibility increased beginning in 2015 due to a law requiring companies of a certain size to give away 2 percent of its net profit to charity. The Indian government shares this CSR data publicly, and Foundation Center has begun incorporating it in their database, alongside other data on Indian philanthropic funding.
According to the Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2018 by Development Initiatives, private organizations and individuals contributed $6 billion toward international humanitarian crises in 2016. This was a decrease from 2015, when $6.9 billion was contributed; however, 2015 appears to represent an exceptional spike in donations, most likely driven by the Nepal earthquake and the Ebola outbreak.

Most international humanitarian assistance from private donors tends to come from individuals (68 percent) and totaled $4.1 billion in 2016. These figures are based on Development Initiatives’ unique dataset of private contributions.

Foundation Center, the Center for Disaster Philanthropy, and Indiana University’s Lilly Family School of Philanthropy will collaborate on new research examining how U.S. households give toward disasters.
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Front cover photo: Hurricane Matthew rolled into North Charleston, SC in early October 2016, knocking out electricity, and leaving behind flooded areas and downed trees. Photo: Ryan Johnson creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0

Back cover photo: A view of San José de Chamanga, Ecuador after an earthquake struck on April 16, 2016. Photo: UNICEF/ECU/2016/Reinoso creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0

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