

Disasters happen every day somewhere in the world. GFNY has shared information before on philanthropic responses to disasters, but it might be time to provide this again.

This information was compiled by [Arabella Philanthropic Advisors](#).

### **Recommendations for Philanthropists**

- **Channel resources to support medium- to long-term recovery efforts.**  
Donors should consider holding off on immediate gifts and instead prioritize longer-term investments. While the urge to respond to immediate needs may be high, the full range of assistance needs may not yet be known.
- **Support organizations with a long history of work in the affected country or region.**  
Look for organizations that have worked in a country or region for years or even decades, providing support across a range of sectors and responding to a range of natural and man-made disasters.
- **Add disaster funding to an existing mission.** Donors most effectively leverage their resources for responding to disasters by tapping their in-house expertise. Recovery needs span all sectors: environment, agriculture, shelter, water and sanitation, education, protection, health care, etc. You can help best where you know the most.
- **Build trusted relationships with grantees.** Consider giving “Unrestricted” gifts now to an organization that implements disaster preparedness, relief, and recovery programs either domestically or internationally. Effective organizations need maximum flexibility to respond to conditions on the ground.
- **Support disaster-risk reduction.** Advance preparation and early warning systems help reduce the damage disasters cause. This includes support for alert and communication systems, disaster-proof construction, agricultural planning, and operational contingency planning. The next emergency is looming.
- **Support underfunded sectors.** The sector-specific areas of psychosocial support, advocacy and transparency are critical to the success of any recovery strategy, but they are often significantly underfunded.
- **Make multi-year commitments to rebuild public goods.**  
Donations that encourage close collaboration among local and federal governments and community-based organizations are especially effective. They can help rebuild both physical structures and a community's social fabric.

### **Additional Resources**

[Relief Web](#) -- a United Nations website providing up-to-date information on crises worldwide

[Disaster Grantmaking: A Practical Guide for Foundations and Corporations](#) -- a COF report identifying eight principles of good disaster management for philanthropists

[AlertNet](#) -- run by the Reuters Foundation, provides news, information and analysis on the Japan earthquake and other disasters

[Investing in Disaster Response](#) -- an Arabella Advisors Issue Brief on this topic