CAF America Survey of 500+ Charitable Organizations Worldwide Shows Nearly All Negatively Impacted by COVID-19

Results Show Contributions Down, Travel Canceled, Service Disrupted

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Washington, D.C. – April 1, 2020 – Nearly 97% of 544 global and local charitable organizations have been negatively impacted by COVID-19, according to a survey conducted by Charities Aid Foundation of America (CAF America), the leader in international grantmaking. More than 42% of charities who responded to the survey provide direct services to those affected by the pandemic and are facing a steep decline in contributions and increased costs.

Other negative impacts reported include broken supply chains, staffing and operational inefficiencies, government and travel restrictions and an inability to meet the expectations of those served.

“It’s important to hear firsthand how this global pandemic is affecting our grantee partner organizations around the world, in real time,” said Ted Hart, CAF America President and CEO, “I have no doubt the powerful insights that have been shared with us, will inspire and motivate those wanting to help with COVID-19 relief, on the ground, around the world, where it can help the most.”

Hart and Senior Vice President of External Affairs Jessie Krafft shared data and research findings, including poignant stories of survival by the people and the charities on the frontlines of COVID-19 response, during CAF America’s April 1 webinar, The Voice of Charities Facing COVID-19 Worldwide; the report is available at cafamerica.org.
Top Highlights

CAF America collected responses from 544 global organizations to learn how the pandemic is affecting them. Several of the key findings include:

1. 42.5% of the organizations—spanning social services, education, healthcare and conservation and arts and culture—provide direct services to those affected by COVID-19.

2. 96.5% of the survey respondents indicated they were negatively impacted. The top-three indicators were:
   a. 67.9% report a decline in contributions, due to donors giving less and the inability to reach donors
   b. 63% have experienced travel disruption, including cancellations and the inability to work effectively, including contacting clients, donors and recipients
   c. 56.4% report an issue with client relations, leading to the inability to meet expectations of those they serve due to inefficiency or barriers to service, such as cancelled public events or face-to-face operations
      i. One of the organizations noted: “Our revenues from the activities of a social enterprise fell by 80%, we have no finances to maintain employment of disabled and healthy people, to pay for electricity, heating, garbage collection, taxes and insurance.”

3. Almost all organizations indicated that they expect a decline in contributions (revenue):
   a. 41.2% expect a decline of greater than 21%
   b. 43.4% expect a decline of 1% to 20%
   c. Only 2.6% expect contributions to increase

4. While 90 said are not currently experiencing a negative impact, most expected to be negatively impacted in the future due to cancelled events and programming and bankrupted sponsors:
   a. 73.3% expected to be impacted in one-three months
   b. 34.4% expect to be impacted in more than three months
   c. 11.1% expect no negative impact

To learn more about how CAF America is supporting donors mobilizing around the world to help those affected by COVID-19, visit CAF America’s COVID-19 Response page.

About CAF America
A leader in international philanthropy, since 1992 CAF America (Charities Aid Foundation of America) has been assisting corporations, foundations, and individuals in making strategic, effective, and tax-advantaged gifts internationally and domestically. Whether supporting organizations working in developing countries, providing swift responses to major disasters, or helping build connections between global communities, CAF America turns donors' visions into impact. CAF America’s worldwide reach translates into more than $1 billion in donor funds and over 1.8 million eligible organizations in 110 countries. For more information about CAF America visit cafamerica.org.

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