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Third CAF America Survey Reflects Resilience of Global and Local Charitable Organizations Amid Pandemic

More than half report urgent need for unrestricted funds to continue operations

Washington, D.C. – June 10, 2020 – While nearly 91% of 414 global and local charitable organizations say they have been negatively impacted by COVID-19, only 9% of organizations have ceased operations, according to a new survey conducted by [Charities Aid Foundation of America \(CAF America\)](#), the leader in international grantmaking. Though this indicates resiliency, more than half reported an urgent need for unrestricted funds to cover operational costs, such as infrastructure, technology, salaries and bills.

The survey suggests organizations are adapting to the new reality, with more than 54% reporting they are providing new services and programs to respond directly to COVID-19-related needs, including door-to-door distributions of household and essential times for families, virtual therapy sessions and remote learning for students. Further, the number of organizations reporting a negative impact has decreased by 3% compared to the [previous survey](#), in May.

“As we learned in our first survey, organizations are resilient and are executing creative and strategic tactics to remain operational. Their persistence drives the necessity of global philanthropy efforts to ensure their survival and capacity to continue this work,” said [Ted Hart, CAF America President and CEO](#). “CAF America remains committed to being a resource for organizations and donors to work together – the future of our sector and its beneficiaries depend on it.”

Hart and [Senior Vice President of External Affairs Jessie Krafft](#) shared data and research findings, including poignant stories of survival from the people and the charities on the frontlines of COVID-19 response, during CAF America's June 10 webinar, *Continuing the Conversation: The Voice of Charities Facing COVID-19 Worldwide*; the report is available at cafamerica.org.

The survey is the third in a series of monthly charitable giving surveys issued to CAF America's vast network of global and local organizations.

Other highlights from the June survey include:

1. Although 90.4% of respondents indicated they were negatively impacted, 92.4% are still in operation, with some adjustments:
 - a. 54.3% are providing new services/programs to respond to COVID-19-related needs
 - b. 52.3% have limited services/programs
 - c. Only 28.4% have not adjusted programs
2. 7.5% of organizations reported they had ceased operations, indicated the following factors:
 - a. 64.5% are unable to provide services/programs virtually
 - b. 30.6% are volunteer-based and have to suspend operations due to COVID-19 restrictions
 - c. 22.5% cannot pay salaries and bills due to lack of funds, which is an indicating factor that organizations are fiscally responsible and working hard to raise funds
 - d. 16.1% do not have access to the necessary technology and infrastructure needed to continue remote operations
3. 52.3% of organizations indicated an urgent need for unrestricted funding to cover operational costs, including:
 - a. 70.3% for salaries
 - b. 32.4% for sufficient IT/technology
 - c. 28.3% to improve office safety to help resume on-site operations
 - d. 23.4% for rent or mortgage
 - e. 21.8% for utilities
4. 235 organizations launched new fundraising activities during the past two months to offset the COVID-19 impact, with varying success rates:
 - a. Nearly three-quarters of organizations met less than 75% of their fundraising target, while 12% didn't raise any funds
 - b. Only 16.6% met 100% of their fundraising target

5. However, organizations noted that donors are offering flexibility to continue financial support, including:
 - a. 46.5% indicated that their donors are offering grant extensions by allowing more time to implement current projects, expend the grants and postpone reporting requirements
 - b. 39.4% are providing need-based funding for most urgent needs
 - c. 39.2% have changed the grant purpose to redirect funds to other or new projects

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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