

MID-YEAR REPORT



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

*This report conveys the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)
from January 1-June 30, 2021.*

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

pcusa.org/PDA



OVERVIEW

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is living into the Matthew 25 invitation by:

- supporting the **eradication of poverty** through grants to vulnerable populations for COVID-19 and other natural and human-caused disasters.
- working to **end systemic racism** through centering communities of color and refugees in our grant-making, interpretation, advocacy and storytelling.
- promoting **congregational vitality** through volunteer work teams, spiritual and emotional care for pastors and grants to help congregations to respond in their own communities.

Disasters and their impact are intensified by climate change. Our colleagues in the Presbyterian Hunger Program offer resources on environmental and sustainable living. Take the Climate Care Challenge at www.pcusa.org/CCC

QUICK FIGURES

Total dollars granted: \$1,978,797

84 grants disbursed in the U.S. and 13 other countries

SUPPORT OUR WORK

pcusa.org/GIVE-PDA

designate gifts to DR000148



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission



PDA is a ministry of
One Great Hour of Sharing

NATIONAL RESPONSE

While COVID-19 prevails, PDA has implemented changes to ensure safety for all when responding to disasters. This includes but is not limited to: reopening 6 host sites for volunteer work teams; virtual deployments of National Response Team members in addition to in-person deployments when possible; programs and webinars, especially those focusing on Emotional and Spiritual Care, and more. Responses in the first half of 2021 included unprecedented flooding, winter storms, fires and more.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

Ongoing support for COVID-19 response with our partners in India, Nepal, Malawi, Sierra Leone and more. Long-term responses include the Kerala floods in India, Hurricane Iota in Central America, and the Tigray conflict in Ethiopia in addition to continued engagement in Syria, Lebanon and South Sudan.

REFUGEE MINISTRY

With the announcement of an increased resettlement goal from the new administration, PDA has been preparing and equipping Presbyterians to welcome refugees. PDA has also been working with OPW and the Office of Immigration Issues to advocate for more progressive measures to support refugees and asylum seekers such as ending family detention, ending private detention centers, and other ICE reforms. In May, the Migration Roundtable, of which PDA is a part, launched a webinar series called "Welcoming The Stranger" to cover immigration, root causes and justice. Early in 2021, PDA launched a new grant opportunity for refugee and immigrant advocacy.

STORY PRODUCTIONS

In partnership with the Environment Protection Agency (EPA), *Flint: The Poisoning of an American City* is being used to educate EPA employees on environmental racism. Story Productions is working on a project highlighting the dangers and corruption surrounding Ethylene Oxide in the United States, and also created a short video as a call to action around the ministries of Compassion, Peace and Justice.



Lynn Nakashian



Mike Ratto