THERE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

We see the effects of devastation every day. Sometimes, we live them. Such was the case for residents of southwestern Japan, who witnessed firsthand unfathomable destruction wrought by relentless downpours and the most devastating – and deadly – flooding in nearly 40 years. Among the ruins? The Mabi-cho Library in northwestern Kurashiki, an integral part of the community serving young and old alike.

Learning of the devastation, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) quickly awarded US$300,000 in Disaster grant funding, helping meet residents’ immediate needs. But longer-term needs – like the library – also needed addressing.

“We wanted to make a mobile library available to the community.”

“More than 90 percent of the books were destroyed, and a new library will take years to build. We wanted to make a mobile library available to the community,” said one Lion. “With additional grant funding from LCIF, we purchased a truck, fit it with shelving, and bought a collection of books.” Today, the mobile unit circulates in Mabi-cho, visiting the area’s numerous schools and temporary housing communities, and serving as a prelude to a new library structure that will come in time.
LCIF is the grant-making body empowering Lions to create greater impact in their communities and around the world. The vast majority of funding LCIF receives is from Lions; one hundred percent of every donation supports Lions service through LCIF grants and programs.

Disaster relief is just one cause area supported by LCIF and Campaign 100: LCIF Empowering Service. With financial support from Lions and clubs worldwide, Campaign 100 is empowering Lions to increase service impact in vision, youth, disaster relief, and humanitarian efforts; fight the global epidemic of diabetes; and make important progress in expanded cause areas of childhood cancer, hunger, and the environment.

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LCIF and Lions: Funding Service, Delivering Solutions

The past 50 years have seen a 390% increase in natural disasters globally. LCIF and Lions have been there. To date, LCIF has awarded US$134 million for disaster relief worldwide through:

- PREPAREDNESS GRANTS: support preparing for future relief efforts
  - UP TO US$10,000

- EMERGENCY GRANTS: support immediate and mid-term needs
  - US$5,000 - US$10,000

- COMMUNITY RECOVERY GRANTS: support short-term cleanup and repair
  - UP TO US$20,000

- MAJOR CATASTROPHE GRANTS: fund reconstruction after large-scale natural disasters

SOURCES/NOTE: 1,4,7,10,11,13, United Nations; 2,3,5,2000-2018, Asian Development Bank, International Disaster Database; 6,Asian Disaster Reduction Center; 9,International Disaster Database; 12, awarded at discretion of Lions International president and LCIF chairperson; grant limits subject to change

That’s here. Globally, natural disaster looks like this:

90% of all natural disasters are water-related. 25.3 million people are displaced each year by sudden disasters. Annual economic losses are estimated at US$250-US$300 billion.

CHINA: Fatalities - 90,500+; Affected - 645M; Damage - $146B²

JAPAN: Fatalities - 19,850; Damage - ~$391B³

PHILIPPINES: Fatalities - 7,415; Damage - $10B⁴

KOREA: Fatalities - 217; Damage - $4.3B⁴

Natural Disaster Knows No Borders