



Giving to Israel: American Institutional Philanthropy to Israeli Nonprofits 2015–2023

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November 2025



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Part 1: Giving from the U.S to Israel

Overview

Approximately 50% of donations to the Israeli nonprofit sector originate from the United States. We have been engaged in a longitudinal study to examine giving trends from an organizational lens: which U.S.-based nonprofits are giving and how much they are giving. We collected this data in four waves: 2015, 2017 & 2019, 2020–2021, and 2022–2023. The 2015 data¹ established a baseline. Subsequently, we analyzed 2017 and 2019² data to triangulate patterns and create an understanding of trends pre-COVID-19 (and other world-changing events)³. This report provides insights into U.S.-based institutional support for Israeli nonprofits during and beyond COVID-19, and at the onset of the October 7 war. **Findings indicate a general upward trend in support over the years of our study. Funding remains centralized, with approximately 100 organizations (8% of the donor pool) accounting for over 80% of all donations.**

Total Giving 2015-2023

Overall, giving by U.S.-based nonprofits to nonprofits in Israel is growing. The total amount given in 2023 was \$4.1 billion. This giving reflects a real average annual increase of 6.8% between 2015–2023.

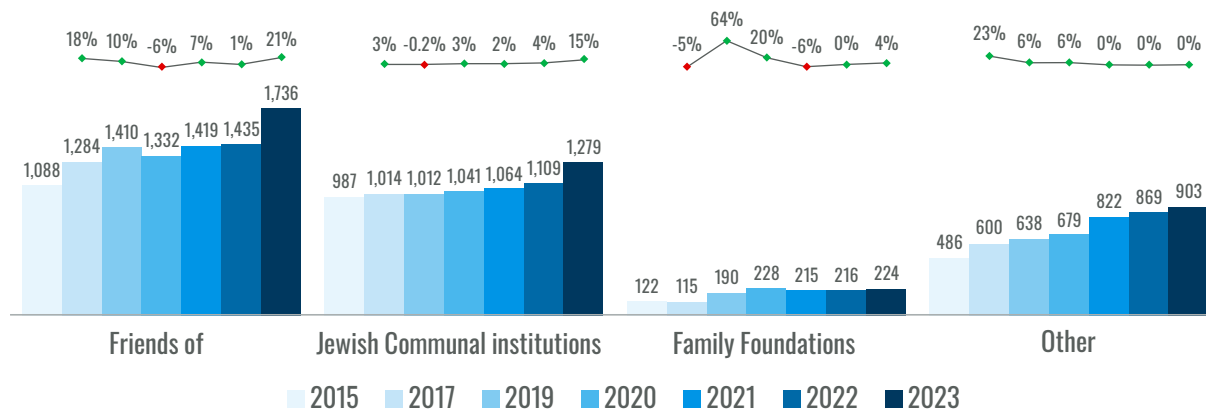
Table 1. Total Giving from U.S.-based nonprofits to Israeli nonprofits

Year	Number of Funders	At current prices				At 2023 prices	
		Total Grants \$	Change in Total Grants \$	% Change in Total Grants	Median Grants per Funder \$	Total Grants Billion \$	% Change
2015	1,210	2,087,193,302			173,804	2.68	
2017	1,234	2,423,941,834	336,748,532	16%	175,053	3.01	12%
2019	1,180	2,727,490,635	303,548,801	13%	241,329	3.25	8%
2020	1,223	2,785,815,573	58,324,938	2%	202,908	3.28	1%
2021	1,243	3,130,446,371	344,630,798	12%	230,750	3.52	7%
2022	1,133	3,484,585,737	354,139,366	11%	350,060	3.63	3%
2023	1,177	4,142,664,885	658,079,148	19%	343,479	4.14	14%

1. Levine Daniel, J., Feit, G. and Hazan, O. (2021). [Giving to Israel: American Institutional Philanthropy to Israeli Nonprofits](#). The Institute for Law and Philanthropy.
2. Levine Daniel, J., Feit, G. and Hazan, O. (2024). [Giving to Israel: American Institutional Philanthropy to Israeli Nonprofits 2015–2019](#). The Institute for Law and Philanthropy.
3. This report is updated and revised with corrections. Data for 2020–2021 were originally published in a report on U.S. giving from 2015–2021. However, while working on the current report, we came across consistent discrepancies in reporting, such that funders reported on grants as part of their international activities on Sch. F part 1, did not detail those grants on Sch. F part 2 (giving to organizations). As a result, we conducted a systematic review of 80 similar cases, which led to the addition of 9 relevant funders to our database and the manual correction of data for all researched years. Since a few of the additional funders are among the largest grantors, corrections for previous years have amounted to hundreds of millions of dollars. Thus, to avoid confusion, we shelved the original publication and publish here corrected data for all surveyed years.

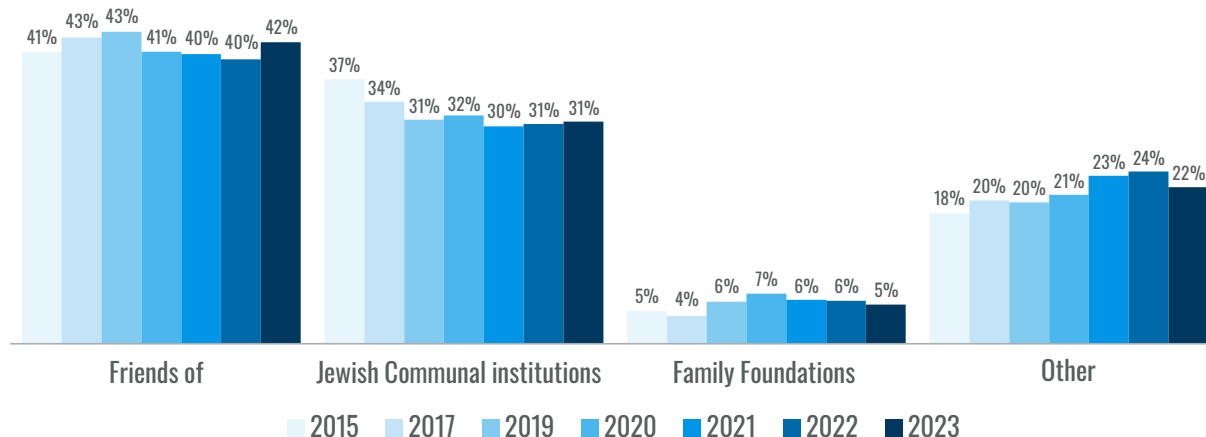
Part 2: Giving to Israel by Type of Funder

Figure 1. Sum of giving from U.S.-based nonprofits to Israeli nonprofits by type of funder (In millions \$, at 2023 prices)



U.S.-based nonprofits giving to Israeli nonprofits can be classified⁴ as ‘Friends of’ organizations, Jewish Communal Institutions (JCIs) or Family Foundations (those not falling into these categories are classified as “Other”). Giving across all organization types trended upward over the timespan of our study. The first year of the COVID-19 pandemic was notable, during which giving by ‘Friends of’ organizations decreased by 6% (Figure 1).

Figure 2. The distribution of giving from U.S.-based nonprofits to Israeli nonprofits by type of funder

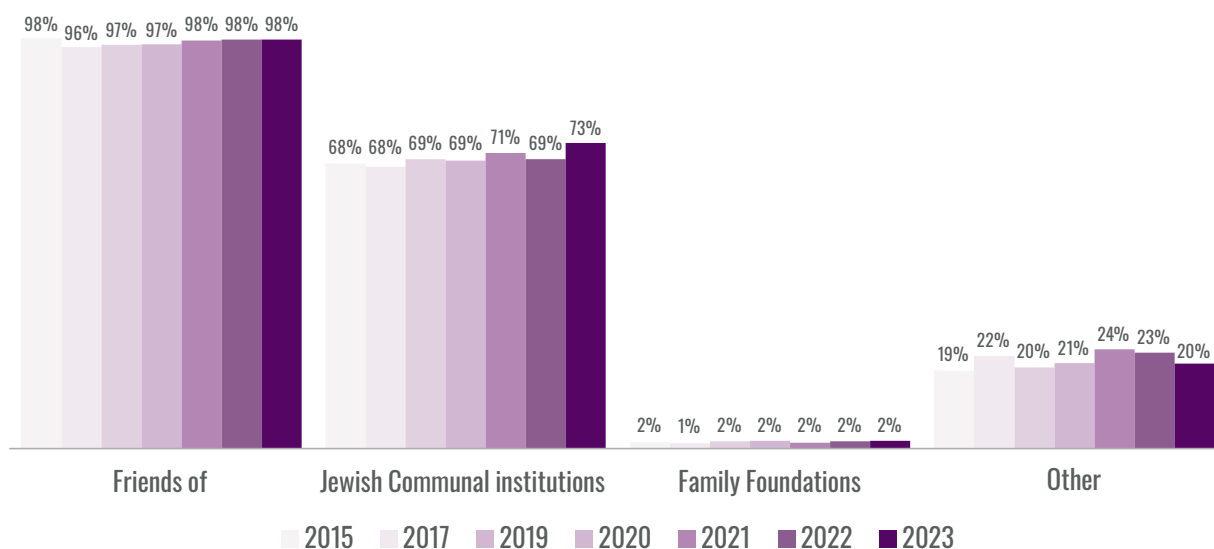


The distribution of funding did not change dramatically. The largest share is allocated by ‘Friends of’ organizations, followed by JCIs, etc. Following an apparent decrease between 2015 and 2019, the JCIs’ share appears relatively stable (Figure 2).

4. See our 2015–2019 report for a detailed discussion of these categories.

Part 3: Giving to Israel as a Share of Total Giving

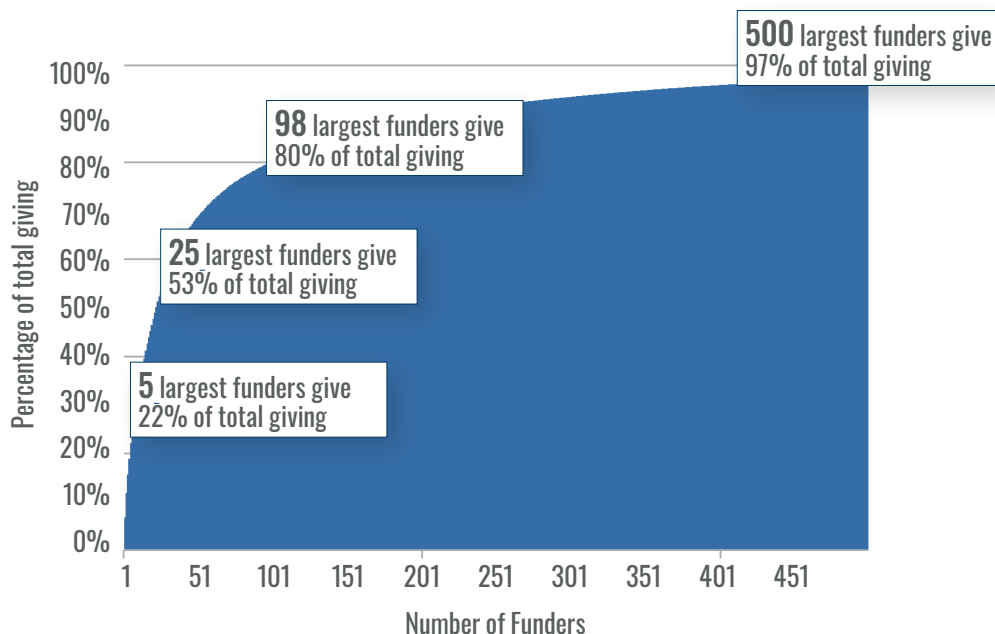
Figure 3. Giving to Israel as a share of total giving, by type of funder



Over the years, the share of giving to Israel has been stable across all types of funders. As expected, almost 100% of the total giving by 'Friends of' organizations is allocated to Israel. Many JCLs (e.g., Federations) are place-based organizations tasked with serving both their local communities and Israel. During times of crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, we might expect them to focus on their local communities. However, the overall share allocated to Israel remained stable during the COVID-19 pandemic and increased in 2023 (Figure 3).

Part 4: Giving to Israel by Size of Funders

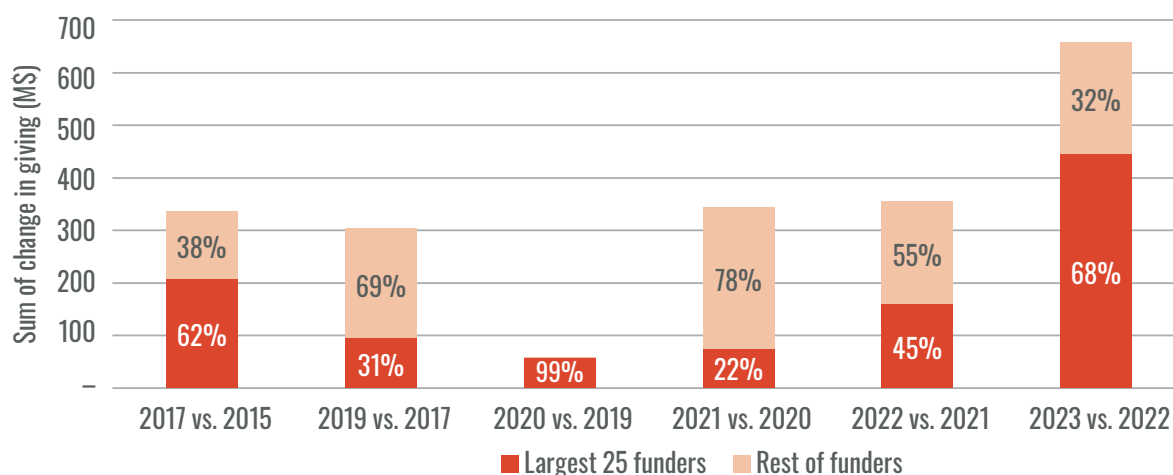
Figure 4. Accumulating giving: Sum of giving by number of funders, 2023



Approximately 2% of the funders (25 funders) accounted for approximately 50% of the total grants, and 8% of funders (approximately 100) contributed 80% in 2023 (higher than the Pareto rule) (Figure 4). In 2015, 17 funders gave 50% of the total grants. In 2022, 24 funders gave 50% of the total grants.

Since the share of the largest 25 funders represented between 51%–57% of total giving in the years surveyed, one might expect the changes in total giving to also be explained by changes in gifts from these large funders. However, this is not the case every year, as shown in Figure 5. For example, while in 2020, 99% of the total change in giving to Israel is due to the change in giving by the largest 25 funders, in 2019 and 2021, they make up only 31% and 22% of the change, respectively.

Figure 5. Distribution of the changes between years in the sum of giving by size of funder (In millions \$, at current prices)



Part 5: Event-Based Impacts

The COVID-19 Pandemic

If 2020 had been an uneventful year, we would have expected a steady increase in total giving. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, which broke out in 2020, we expected to see a decrease in total giving as large private and community foundations in the U.S. created new COVID-19 funds and/or shifted funding priorities⁵. While some organizations did experience a drop in donations related to the change in activities (e.g., Birthright Israel Foundation), the data indicate a slight increase in total giving (1% in constant prices). We observed a decrease in the 'Friends of' donations (6%), but this was likely unrelated to the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, the two largest decreases from 'Friends of' organizations we identified were likely due to the timing of capital campaigns and renovations.

October 7 Responses

Between 2022 and 2023, the amount of organizational grants distributed to Israeli nonprofits increased by \$659 million, representing a 14% increase in constant prices. This represents double the average annual increase. Giving by 'Friends of' organizations accounted for the largest share of this growth (\$358 million, 54% of the total change), with the largest increase going to organizations addressing war-related needs. Examples include 'Friends of United Hatzalah Inc.' and 'American Friends of Magen David ADOM', which together granted an additional \$140M beyond their giving in 2022. Additional examples are 'Friends of the Israel Defense Forces' and 'JGive – Friends of Asor Fund USA', the latter usually operates as a DAF and crowdfunding platform but had established a dedicated fund for emergencies⁶.

Growth in JCI giving was also exceptional (\$214M), and likely connected to the war (e.g., increased grants from the Jewish Agency for Israel and United Israel Appeal Inc.). This is noteworthy in part because JCIs' share of giving dropped to approximately 30% in 2019 and remained stable (see Figure 2), but actual giving from these organizations continues to rise (see Figure 1).

Support for Israel, especially from JCIs, is apparent and is likely to continue its upward trend. According to a 2024 CCS Fundraising survey of 73 Jewish organizations across the U.S.⁷, 56% of organizations saw an increase in donations in October 2023 (following the October 7 attacks), and 47% reported an increase in December 2023. From October 2023 to May 2024, Israel-related organizations reported more increases and stability than non-Israeli organizations. Donations to both Israel-related and non-Israel-related organizations appear to have leveled off though, indicating stability in giving. **Our findings support this, as we have demonstrated that stability actually means consistently increasing donations to Israel.**

5. Finchum-Mason, E., Husted, K., & Suárez, D. (2020). Philanthropic foundation responses to COVID-19. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 49(6), 1129–1141.

6. See also a [review by ILP and JGive Israel](#) based on JGive Israel's real data for Oct–Dec 2023 (in Hebrew).

7. [Jewish Philanthropy Since October 7](#), CCS Fundraising, 2024.