United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries: Helping Rebuild Homes and Lives in 2019

Every year, disasters leave families in need of spiritual, physical, financial and psychological support. UCC Disaster Ministries responds to natural and human-caused disasters across the United States and around the world with and through U.S. domestic and global partners.

With a special focus on filling critical gaps in communities where long-term needs persist, UCC Disaster Ministries’ support extends beyond immediate assistance and the coverage of news stations.

In the United States, we work hand-in-hand with our churches, conferences and Conference Disaster Coordinators to offer disaster preparedness and trauma training, respond in disaster’s immediate aftermath, and support community-based long-term recovery groups with volunteer work teams and Partners in Service, funds and expertise.

We also maintain strategic partnerships and direct relationships with organizations and faith communities engaged in disaster response in more than 125 countries. Through this work thousands of disaster survivors receive dignified support and relief annually.
UCC Disaster Ministries
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Note: This document’s purpose is to share highlights of our work in 2019. It is not an audited financial report.

U.S. Disaster Response Overview
Total 2019 Grants: $744,280

A year of service to disaster survivors in:

- American Samoa (Tropical Cyclone Gita) $5,000
- California (Floods and Fires) $6,000 (solidarity grants of $3,000 each to churches assisting disaster survivors)
- Florida (Hurricanes Michael, Matthew and Irma) $80,000
- Hawaii (Volcano) $2,500
- Iowa (Floods) $3,000 (solidarity grant)
- Kansas (Tornadoes) $2,000 (solidarity grant)
- Missouri (Floods) $3,000 (solidarity grant)
- Nebraska (Floods) $9,000 (three $3,000 solidarity grants)
- North Carolina (Hurricane Florence) $20,000 ($5,000 each to four long-term recovery groups) plus $18,000 for four trauma retreats
- Ohio (Tornadoes) $3,000 (solidarity grant)
- Oklahoma (Floods) $5,065 (solidarity grant for water filters)
- Pennsylvania (Evacuees from Puerto Rico) $10,000, (Floods) $15,000
- Puerto Rico (Hurricanes Maria and Irma) $263,475
- Texas (Hurricane Harvey) $277,490

The above grants break out as follows:

- Solidarity grants to UCC congregations and conferences: $31,065
- Seed grants to local recovery groups: $50,000
- Long-term recovery grants: $641,465

In addition, in 2019:

67 UCC congregations each received $250 UCC Matching Grants for churches making CWS Kits, and $5,000 was advanced to National Youth Event 2020 for its Kits assembly project. Total Kits matching grants: $21,750.
NEW: Disaster Preparedness Manual for Churches

Is your church prepared to withstand a natural disaster and to help your congregation and community in the aftermath? Do you want to be prepared but don’t know where to start?

Being ready got easier in 2019 thanks to the new Disaster Preparedness Manual for Churches* by UCC Disaster Ministries and the Insurance Board, a property and liability insurance program for the UCC and other churches. It was unveiled at a disaster preparedness workshop at General Synod in June.

Drawing on the expertise and work already underway across the UCC Conference Disaster Coordinators network, and in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference in particular, this 24-page manual is for houses of worship of any faith. It offers a step-by-step guide to preparing your building and congregation for a disaster and to serving your wider community when one occurs.

“Yes, the internet is overflowing with disaster preparedness materials. But finding concise, usable directions tailored to houses of worship has been a challenge, until now,” said UCC Disaster Ministries Program Associate Amanda Sheldon. “The manual responds directly to that challenge by assembling just what congregations need to know, and do, in one PDF document.”

The manual includes what to do on “Blue Sky Days” when there’s no adverse weather forecast, and how to prepare for specific types of events.

Pictured: 2019 General Synod workshop leaders Gerald Sink, Director of Loss Control, Insurance Board, and Amanda Sheldon with participants the Rev. Dr. Anesta Vannoy, New York, N.Y., and Diane Beebe, Cornwall, Conn. UCC Disaster Ministries photo.

* Visit ucc.org/disaster_resources for your free copy of the “Disaster Preparedness Manual for Churches” and other valuable resources from UCC Disaster Ministries.
2019 funding: $30,000

Hurricane Michael made landfall as a Category 5 storm in October 2018, the most powerful hurricane on record to hit the Florida Panhandle and the third strongest to hit the continental United States. NOAA* estimated $25 billion damage from Michael’s heavy rain, high winds and extreme storm surges.

“Many residents still have blue-tarped roofs that leak when it rains,” reported Liberty Strong, long-term recovery group for Liberty County, Fla., at year’s end. “Others are struggling to feed and clothe their families” and to pay for repairs.

In 2019, UCC Disaster Ministries:

- began recruiting volunteer work teams for Bay and Washington counties (pictured. Photo credit: Rebuild Bay County.).
- approved $5,000 seed grants to six long-term recovery groups: Liberty (County) Strong, Gadsden (County) Strong, Citizens of Gulf County Recovery Team, Rebuild Bay LTRG, Washington County LTRG, and the North Florida Inland Long-Term Recovery Group (Jackson and Calhoun counties) (more in 2020).
- deployed Betzi Yungclas, an experienced Partners in Service volunteer, to handle volunteer and construction management for the Repair Holmes County Long-Term Recovery Organization, and hired Benji Benzschawel as construction manager for the North Florida Inland Long-Term Recovery Group (UCC Disaster Ministries salary was released in 2020).

* NOAA is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

All UCC Disaster Ministries work sites accepting volunteers are indexed at ucc.org/disaster_disaster-volunteers
North Carolina - HURRICANE FLORENCE

2019 funding: $38,000

Hurricane Florence made landfall in the U.S. Southeast in September 2018, then lingered over the region, causing $24 billion (Source: NOAA) catastrophic flooding, including prolonged significant river flooding. The environmental impacts of the storm's damage were vast. Hurricane Michael followed with further damage.

UCC Disaster Ministries in 2019:

- began recruiting volunteers for 15 hurricane recovery work sites and a call center in Garner, N.C., in collaboration with the United Methodist Church North Carolina Conference Disaster Ministries. Opportunities include building disaster kits, answering phones in the Call Center, and repairing homes (pictured. Photo credit: North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.)

- funded retreats ($18,000 total) in Wilmington, Raleigh, Elizabeth, and New Bern, N.C., for persons on the frontlines of trauma recovery post-disaster.

- contributed $5,000 each for the Carteret (N.C.) Long-Term Recovery Alliance, Pender County (N.C.) Long-Term Recovery Group, Cumberland County Long-Term Recovery Group, and Onslow County Long-Term Recovery Group for Hurricane Florence recovery, with more grants in the pipeline for 2020.

All UCC Disaster Ministries work sites accepting volunteers are indexed at ucc.org/disaster_disaster-volunteers
Continuing Disaster Recovery Worksites

Puerto Rico – HURRICANES MARIA AND IRMA

2019 funding: $263,475

Hurricane Maria (September 2017) was the worst natural disaster on record to hit Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory. Nearly 3,000 people died - more than 60 in the hurricane and the rest from the crippling of health, power, water and other systems for months after the storm. NOAA puts damage at $90 billion. At year’s end, close to 30,000 homes still had blue tarp roofs, and thousands of homes still needed interior repairs.

UCC Disaster Ministries in 2019:

- worked closely with the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico (IEUPR) to recruit work teams primarily to restore roofs. We fielded 446 volunteers in 2018 and 2019, all from UCC churches.

  In 2019, volunteers completed 57 houses (65 in 2018) and renovated volunteer accommodations and camp and conference facilities. As of December, IEUPR counted 111 houses waiting for help.

  UCC Partners in Service Disaster Volunteers Doug and Judy Moore continue to schedule volunteer work teams through June 2020. If sufficient funding can be raised, volunteers will be recruited for July-December 2020. (Recovery help to survivors of the 2019-20 earthquakes will be integrated in 2020.)

UCC Disaster Ministries in 2019 also:

- assisted Ryder Memorial Hospital with procuring and shipping equipment of equipment, and with a two-year start-up grant to create a formal development office.
• restored space for a church’s Mission Center in the Santurce neighborhood of San Juan in line with its commitment to support community-led recovery efforts that address socioeconomic challenges to vulnerable survivors’ recovery (pictured, the Mission Center’s meals program. IEUPR photo.).

• sponsored retreats, trauma recovery and preparedness workshops for IEUPR pastors and others engaged in Hurricane Maria recovery and stocked churches with emergency toolkits.

Sidebar: Pastors in Puerto Rico Get a Break from Stress

Churches in Puerto Rico are at the stressful and demanding front lines of meeting needs left by Hurricane Maria two years ago.

More than 80 IEUPR pastors, staff and spouses (pictured. IEUPR photo.) got a break at an October retreat in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, organized by the IEUPR and funded by UCC Disaster Ministries.

“After the hurricane and everything else that we have been through, we needed a space to heal, and most of all be able to rest,” said the Rev. Edward Rivera, IEUPR General Pastor.

Each day started with a small devotional, with free time all day until around 6 to 7 p.m. when the conferences started. There were three conferences in total. The first focused on ways for pastors to find the time and space to be with their
spouses. The other two were about burnout and the different ways to try to approach it in a holistic manner.

IEUPR pastors gave the retreat star reviews. "I really needed this," said Pastor Jesus Santana. "I feel energized and stronger in mind and spirit after this experience. It was refreshing to the spirit."

The IEUPR General Pastor said, “I have to give a big word of gratitude of all of the UCC for their solidarity during our time of need. You really have been brothers and sisters in every sense of the word."

All UCC Disaster Ministries work sites accepting volunteers are indexed at ucc.org/disaster_disaster-volunteers

Port Arthur, Texas – HURRICANE HARVEY

2019 funding: $277,490

Hurricane Harvey (August 2017) brought sustained torrential rains and devastating flooding to Texas, leaving 900,000 people in need. It caused an estimated $125 billion in damages (Source: NOAA), making it among the costliest hurricanes in U.S. history.

Among people hit hardest were low-income renters in already economically precarious Port Arthur.

Flooded apartments included 16 managed by the Southeast Texas Community Development Corporation (SETCDC), a local non-profit.

UCC Disaster Ministries partnered with SETCDC to restore 16 severely damaged affordable units in Port Arthur and two in Beaumont. They completed the work in 2019. Support included funding for Hurricane Harvey Co-Coordinators Joshua Lawrence and Amariee Collins and a construction manager, and deployment of Partners in Service Volunteers.
2019 funding: $50,000

Hurricane Matthew (fall 2016) caused catastrophic damage and a humanitarian crisis in Haiti, and widespread devastation in the U.S. southeast. In Volusia County, Fla., 17,555 households requested FEMA assistance. Eleven months later, Hurricane Irma re-traumatized many Volusia County residents, with 62,621 registering with FEMA.

UCC Disaster Ministries is working with Volusia Interfaiths/Agencies Networking in Disasters (VIND) to address unmet needs. We recruit volunteer work teams, providing them with tool trailers and housing at Union Congregational Church in Holly Hill, Fla. In 2019, we also supported with $50,000 a construction coordinator and materials.

VIND and other community-based long-term recovery groups help disaster survivors mobilize available resources, then attend to unmet needs, prioritizing the most vulnerable survivors. Functions include fundraising, construction and volunteer management, and leveraging resources to help as many people as possible.

It is expected that 350 to 500 homes/mobile homes will enter long-term disaster recovery with VIND before the project’s end. By year-end 2019:

- 186 households have reached recovery with VIND’s assistance.
- VIND helped 53 households obtain funding needed to complete repairs.
- VIND helped 23 households reach recovery through insurance mitigation.
- 110 repair/rebuild volunteers in more than two dozen teams from UCC congregations helped restore roofs and interiors.

All UCC Disaster Ministries work sites accepting volunteers are indexed at ucc.org/disaster_disaster-volunteers
Sidebar: Helping a Volusia County Navy Veteran Recover

Disaster recovery is challenging enough for people with means, but many – including people with fixed incomes, ill, elderly, disabled - simply lack the resources even to begin rebuilding, let alone finish on their own.

“Having a roof leak and falling in was very difficult for me after having two strokes and being a senior citizen. It was very hard on me, not knowing what to do.”

That testimony is from a 70-year-old disabled Navy veteran whose Volusia County, Fla., home lost most of the roof’s shingles to Hurricane Irma’s winds. That opened the way to major leaks, which destroyed much of the ceiling in the main living area and bedroom.

UCC Disaster Ministries and long-term recovery group VIND helped the veteran obtain a five-year forgivable loan to pay for a new roof, and deployed an ecumenical volunteer work team (pictured) from Altoona (Pa.) United Church of Christ to complete interior repairs.

“The volunteers … did it with such love and compassion, taking the job under their wings and making it perfect,” the veteran said. “My health was deteriorating due to breathing in the water damage and particles from the debris in my home and it is improving now. I have a new outlook and am not depressed.”

Thanking VIND and the volunteers, he said, “You have changed my life.”

“You get ... to understand how much their having a stable home is the foundation for everything else. Everyone you work with has a bit of a new beginning and it begins with their house.” - Hannah G.

Hannah and I learned something from every client and every volunteer group that came to help.” Nemah M.

Both 2019 Summer Communities of Service intern whose assignment was disaster recovery in Volusia County, Fla.
Other Active U.S. Responses in 2019

U.S. Floods and Tornadoes

2019 funding: $46,065

FEMA declared 61 major disasters (of 101 total) across the United States and U.S. territories in 2019. Fourteen of them were $1 billion or more weather and climate disaster events, with 11 of those flooding and/or severe storms events.

As communities began to assess needs, UCC Disaster Ministries and Conference Disaster Coordinators helped activate long-term recovery groups even as we worked to support local UCC churches in their initial response. By year’s end, $46,065 total had been disbursed for 2019 flood and tornado recovery, including:

- solidarity grants for congregations helping survivors and volunteers with hot meals, food pantries and gift cards (California, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Ohio and Nebraska).

- water filters (in Oklahoma).

- unmet needs of flood survivors, including heating equipment and hot water heaters (Pennsylvania).

In 2019, UCC Disaster Ministries also:

- contributed $10,000 to the UCC’s Pennsylvania Southeast and Penn Northeast Conferences for continuation of outreach to Puerto Ricans who continue to flee Hurricane Maria’s destruction and ongoing disruption of life on their U.S. island territory.

* https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/

Photo: Flooding in Pacific Junction, IA, courtesy Clydie Nelsen.
The damage inflicted by disasters across the United States in 2019 can be quantified in billions of dollars. It also can be described by the ache in one mom's heart to get her four daughters back into the only home they've ever known.

Clydie Nelsen (pictured) and most of her more than 400 fellow citizens of Pacific Junction, Iowa, had to flee their close-knit town in March when muddy floodwater from the Missouri River breached multiple levees six to seven miles away.

Pacific Junction and other parts of Mills County were inundated. Nelsen's home took in 9-1/2 feet of water. She and her daughters stayed with an aunt for a few weeks, then found a rental in nearby Glenwood.

Nelsen's father is a carpenter by trade, and she has worked alongside him for years. Once the floodwater had receded, they mucked and gutted her house "with a lot of help from friends, family and volunteer groups," she said.

Clydie's church, First Congregational UCC in Glenwood, along with three other area congregations stepped up to sustain flood survivors with spiritual and material support, including hot meals – three times a day the first 90 days.

While pursuing her own recovery, Nelsen also is serving as construction coordinator for the newly formed long-term recovery group, the Mills County Disaster Coalition. Her church serves as the fiscal agent for the coalition.

The coalition is wholly nongovernmental, composed of residents who "want to help whomever we can in the county without personal gain. We will try the best we can to help people rebuild or at least stay in the county," Nelsen said, adding, "Don't forget us. We are going to need the help of a lot of people for many months to get back home. A lot people have lived in this town their entire life. We just want to get home."
Creative Fundraiser: Line Dance Classes

In 2019, Millie Oliphant of Vernon, Conn., translated her passion for line dancing into a fundraiser that benefited UCC Disaster Ministries.

Her eight-week line dance class helped participants chase away the “dead-of-winter” blues and raised $600 for UCC Disaster Ministries in the process.

The class was held at First Congregational UCC, where Oliphant has been a member for 46 years.

The line dance fundraiser was so popular that the church is repeating it in 2020!

*Pictured: Millie Oliphant and Michael Currier demonstrate steps at a line dance class.*

Creative Fundraiser: Pasty Sale

First Congregational Church UCC in New Baltimore, Mich., bakes and sells thousands of pasties at its semiannual fundraising Pasty Sales.

The sales raise about one-fourth of the church’s annual operating budget. In addition, 10 percent goes to outside causes including, in 2019, UCC Disaster Ministries.
Disaster Recovery Support Initiative is Growing

A pilot program to help communities launch long-term recovery following disasters is growing ecumenically.

Over the past two years, the disaster ministries of the United Church of Christ, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Church of the Brethren have joined forces to pioneer the Disaster Recovery Support Initiative (DRSI) in nine states and U.S. territories.

Now DRSI is folding into the disaster programs of Church World Service (CWS), a faith-based organization with 37 member communions, including DRSI’s three founding denominations. CWS responds to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster around the globe.

DRSI addresses the growing gap between when a disaster hits and when volunteers are deployed to support community based long-term recovery. The initiative uses Disaster Recovery Support Teams (DRSTs) on the ground to encourage, mentor and otherwise support community-based recovery groups with technical and operational knowledge. Teams deploy at the request of the affected community.

DRSI’s first DRSTs were deployed to Texas, Wisconsin, Arkansas, Illinois, Nebraska, Georgia, North Carolina, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to support long-term recovery groups. In 2018, an external evaluation of DRSI in the U.S. Virgin Islands concluded that the model was effective and worth replicating elsewhere.

Pictured: A visit with a Hurricanes Irma and Maria survivor in the U.S. Virgin Islands. DRSI photo.

Read the full UCC News Story at https://www.ucc.org/news_church_world_service_to_grow_ucc_doc_brethren_disaster_recovery_support_initiative_12092019
International Disaster Response Overview
Total 2019 Support: $346,000

A year of service to disaster survivors in:

- Bahamas (Hurricane Dorian) $15,000 + ACT Alliance Rapid Response Funds (RRF)
- Bangladesh (Monsoon Floods) RRF
- Brazil (Amazon Fires; Dam Collapse and Mudslides) RRF
- China (Typhoon Lekima) RRF
- Congo Brazzaville (Heavy Rain and Flooding) $5,000
- Cuba (Tornado) RRF
- Democratic Republic of Congo (Ebola) $7,500
- Gaza (Emergency Health and Psychological Care) $12,000
- Ghana (Floods) RRF
- India (Cyclone Fani) $5,000, (Monsoon Floods) RRF, (Drought) $25,000
- Indonesia (Flash Flooding) RRF), (Earthquake and Tsunami) $15,000.
- Japan (Typhoon Hagibis) $10,000, (Flash Floods) RRF
- Kashmir (Earthquakes) RRF
- Liberia (Floods) $5,000
- Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe (Cyclones Kenneth and Idai) $65,000
- Nepal (2015 Earthquakes) $40,000
- Pakistan (Drought) $7,500, (Earthquake) RRF
- Philippines (Earthquake) $15,000, (Typhoon Ompong/Mangkhut) $54,000
- Russia (Floods) RRF
- Sumadija & West Serbia (Floods) RRF
- Syria (Winterization Items for IDPs) $20,000
- Tanzania (Rain Storm Emergency) RRF
- Vanuatu (Volcano Eruption) RRF
- Zambia (Drought) RRF
- Zimbabwe (Drought Emergency) RRF

In addition, UCC Disaster Ministries contributed:

- $10,000 for Caribbean regional training of trainers in Humanitarian Charter and Essential Humanitarian Standard
- $30,000 to ACT Alliance Rapid Response Fund
- $5,000 to Church World Service General Disaster Fund
In 2019, Hurricane Dorian left at least 70 dead, with 13,000 homes severely damaged or destroyed on the Bahamas' Abaco and Grand Bahama islands - nearly 40 percent of all homes on the two islands. NOAA put damages at $7.5 billion.

Most people's immediate humanitarian needs were met by the humanitarian community, the private sector and through individual initiatives. The Government of the Bahamas has requested help, including from NGOs and humanitarian organizations, to fill identified relief and recovery gaps.

UCC Disaster Ministries is appealing for funds to support long-term recovery - beginning with assessment and community planning and likely to continue for several years.

In 2019, UCC Disaster Ministries:

- contributed $15,000 to support care for 25 orphaned, abused, neglected or abandoned children evacuated from Grand Bahama after Hurricane Dorian destroyed the Children’s Home there. The children, aged 7 years and older, have been taken in by the Ranfurly Homes for Children, Nassau, Bahamas, doubling the number of children in that home.

- supported the deployment of a team of individuals by the ecumenical ACT Alliance to assess damages with intent to determine steps needed to support recovery and rehabilitation.

- is focusing on long-term recovery. This means that its work may last for several years. This only begins after emergency needs are met, assessments can be completed and community planning has happened. At that time UCC Disaster Ministries will help fund and support the work of its partners who are engaged in recovery efforts.
Sulawesi, Indonesia – RESILIENCY TRAINING

$15,000 from UCC Disaster Ministries funded 12 months of training for an entire village in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia, which in September 2018 suffered a massively destructive earthquake and tsunami that killed more than 2,000 people and displaced tens of thousands.

The project was implemented by Church World Service using the Indonesian government’s Disaster Resilient Village model to build communities with independent ability to avoid danger, adapt to disaster risks and recover quickly.

Philippines – TYPHOON OMPONG (MANGKHUT)

Long-term recovery from the devastation and economic dislocation of Typhoon Ompong (Mangkhut) in September 2018 is underway in the Philippines. UCC Disaster Ministries contributed $33,000 to rehabilitation activities of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, specifically in the hard-hit Middle and North Luzon Jurisdictional Areas.

UCC Disaster Ministries released another $21,000 through the ACT Alliance for an ecumenical, targeted food and non-food program for survivors of Typhoon Yuta (Rosita), which in October 2018, a month after Typhoon Mangkhut, made landfall just a few hundred kilometers south of Typhoon Mangkhut’s path.

*Philippines government photo of Ompong's destruction by Karl Norman Alonzo*
Nepal - 2015 EARTHQUAKES

It was Nepal's worst earthquake in 80 years, and the toll was devastating. The 7.8 magnitude earthquake April 25, 2015, was followed on May 12 by a 7.3 earthquake. The death toll was put at 8,944. With 598,401 homes destroyed, and 283,585 damaged. Thousands of schools were destroyed or damaged. In all, eight million people were affected.

UCC Disaster Ministries pledged $200,000 for construction of new, permanent, earthquake-resistant homes in Nepal in partnership with the Fuller Center for Housing.

The UCC completed its commitment in 2018, following up with an extra measure of support in September 2019 when it sent an additional $40,000.

It's a gift that keeps on giving! By the end of 2019, UCC Disaster Ministries' investment of $240,000 had made possible construction of 94 earthquake-resistant homes.

Families pay back interest-free loans into a revolving fund that is used to build more homes. UCC has funded 74 homes directly, and 20 were built with funds families paid back into the revolving fund. As funds continue to revolve, that number will grow!

In all, UCC Disaster Ministries has provided nearly $430,000 for earthquake recovery in Nepal. In addition to houses, funds have gone for immediate response; long-term livelihood recovery; water, sanitation, and hygiene, and psychosocial care.

Pictured: One of the 94 homes built so far with UCC Disaster Ministries funding. Photo credit: Fuller Center for Housing.
**Other International Response Detail**

- UCC Disaster Ministries contributed $65,000 for early recovery work, including food, water, temporary shelter, psychosocial needs, basic household and medicine/medical needs, from back-to-back cyclones Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Kenya. (*Pictured left: People in Malawi displaced by Idai.*)

- Drought in India’s Telangana State has had a severe impact on domestic water supply, crop production, unskilled rural employment, and the financial status of rural households.

$25,000 from UCC Disaster Ministries to the Churches’ Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA) helped to provide drinking water to affected communities, plus fodder for affected livestock. Funds also were used to promote alternative good practices for sustainable development, to develop Community Based Village Drought Mitigation and Management Plans for affected villages, and to promote and strengthen community based organizations.

- $20,000 from UCC Disaster Ministries to Global Ministries’ partner Fund for Development, Culture and Dialogue helped vulnerable Syrian families combat the harsh winter with winterization items.

- $15,000 from UCC Disaster Ministries helped supply emergency food, shelter, water, sanitation, hygiene and medicine for two to three months for 500 families displaced by an earthquake in Central Luzon, Philippines. Most belong to the Aeta tribe (indigenous people) who live in remote, vulnerable mountain areas.

- $12,000 through Global Ministries’ partner Near East Council of Churches was used to address emergency health and psychological problems in Gaza among Palestinian children and women in an area targeted by Israeli bombardment that killed close to three dozen and injured more than 100.
• UCC Disaster Ministries granted $10,000 for CWS Japan to help 1,000 vulnerable families without support mechanisms recover from Typhoon Hagibis, especially the elderly, single parent families, non-Japanese residents and people with disabilities.

• $7,500 from UCC Disaster Ministries to IMA World Health helped provide new bedding, school fees and supplies, and other items for families and children suffering the loss of a family member or members due to the Ebola outbreak in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

• $7,500 from UCC Disaster Ministries helped support an ecumenical program of direct food aid along with health and sanitation support for 78,800 most vulnerable people suffering moderate to severe food insecurity resulting from drought in Pakistan.

• $5,000 through Global Ministries went to Disciples of Christ Church of Congo in Brazzaville for its assistance to the D'impfondo community, which in November was heavily impacted by heavy rains and flooding of hurricane proportions. Aid includes food, temporary shelter, clothes and sanitary items.

• $5,000 from UCC Disaster Ministries helped support an ecumenical program of shelter, health, water, sanitation and hygiene for survivors of Cyclone Fani in India.

• Five counties around Monrovia, Liberia were hit in July 2019 by heavy rain and flash floods. A $5,000 grant from UCC Disaster Ministries through the ACT Alliance helped 7,000 people restock food and non-food items and strengthen community disaster preparedness and resilience.