



Giving to Israel: American Institutional Philanthropy to Israeli Nonprofits 2015–2021

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Overview

Approximately 45% of funding for the Israeli nonprofit sector originates from the United States. We have been engaged in a longitudinal study to examine giving trends from an organizational lens: which U.S.-based organizations are giving and how much are they giving. We collected this data in 3 waves: 2015, 2017 & 2019, and 2020 & 2021. We started with 2015 data¹ to establish a baseline. We then analyzed 2017 and 2019² to triangulate patterns and create an understanding of pre-Covid (and other world-changing events) trends. This third report provides insights into U.S.-based institutional support for Israeli organizations during and beyond COVID. **We find a general upward trend in support over the years of our study. Funding remains centralized – 161 organizations (7% of the donor pool) account for over 80% of all donations.**

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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. <https://www.ilp.sites.tau.ac.il/en/post/giving-to-israel-american-institutional-philanthropy-to-israeli-nonprofits-1>
 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. <https://www.ilp.sites.tau.ac.il/en/post/giving-to-israel-american-institutional-philanthropy-to-israeli-nonprofits-1>

Part 1: Giving from the U.S. to Israel

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

Year	At current prices					At 2021 prices	
	Number of Funders	Total Grant \$	Change in total grants \$	% change in total grants	Median Grants per funder \$	Total Grant Billion \$	% change
2015	1,203	1,914,000,826			170,790	2.19	
2017	1,226	2,194,466,416	280,465,590	15%	174,626	2.43	11%
2019	1,169	2,412,216,334	217,749,918	10%	232,663	2.56	5%
2020	1,207	2,395,068,536	(17,147,798)	-1%	200,000	2.51	-2%
2021	1,221	2,654,812,043	259,743,507	11%	211,622	2.65	6%

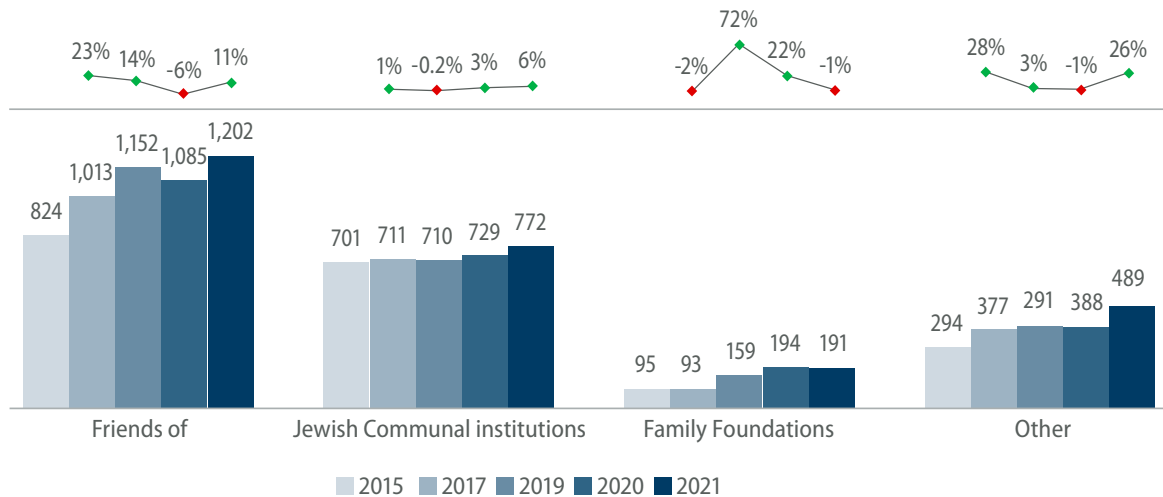
Overall, giving by U.S.-based organizations to nonprofits in Israel is growing. The total sum of giving amounted to \$2.65B in 2021. Aside from a 1% nominal decrease in giving in 2020 (during the COVID-19 outbreak), this giving reflects a real average annual increase of 3.6%.

Data from Israeli organizations receiving grants from RoW (Rest of the World – including donations from NGOs, individuals and corporations from the U.S. and other countries) shows that giving from U.S. NGOs makes up approximately 3/4 of RoW donations in Israel.³

3. For example, in 2021 and 2020 giving from the U.S. makes 74% and 82% from RoW respectively (unpublished data).

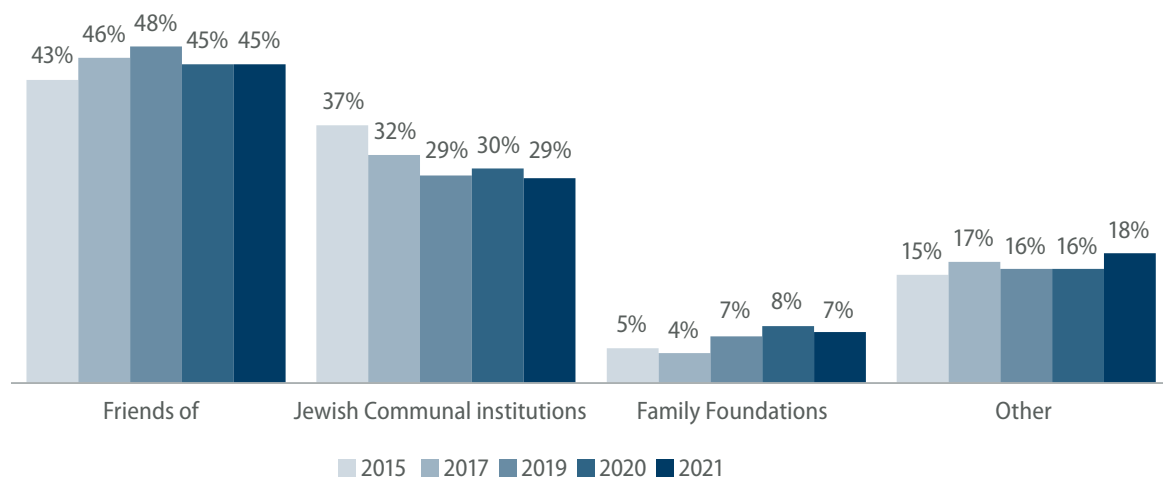
Part 2: Giving by Type of Funder

Figure 1. Sum of Giving from U.S. nonprofits to Israeli nonprofits, by type of funder (In millions \$)



Giving across all organization types trended upward over the timespan of our study. Giving dipped in 2020 and the decrease is mostly evident in giving by Friends Of Organizations (-6%). However, giving by JCI and Family Foundations increased.

Figure 2. The distribution of Giving from U.S. nonprofits to Israeli nonprofits, by type of funder

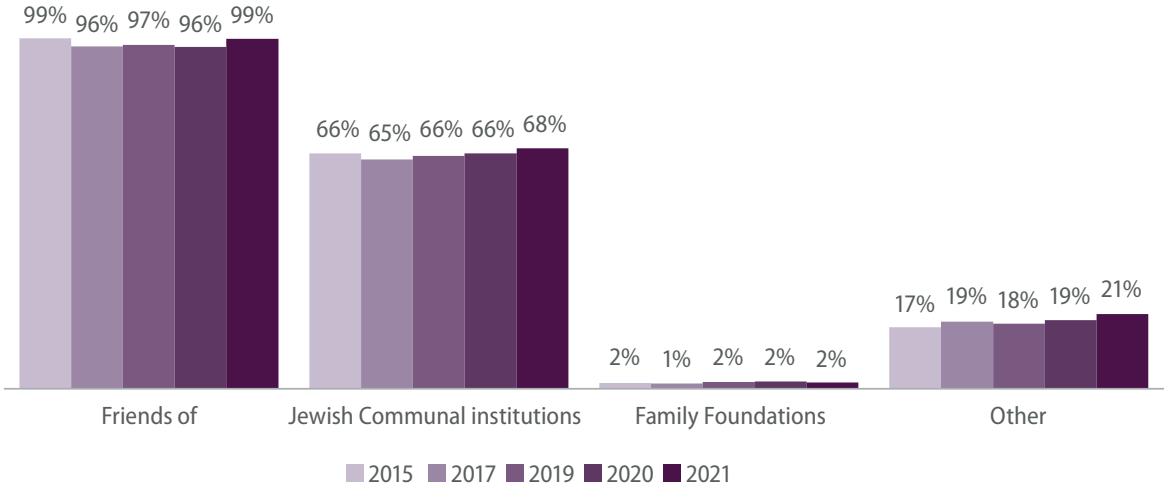


The distribution did not change dramatically. The order remains: the largest share is allocated by Friends Of Organizations followed by JCIs etc. After an initial decrease between 2015 and 2019, the JCI share appeared relatively stable.

These two charts together demonstrate that even as the relative share of JCI funding to Israel dropped, total dollars to Israel have increased.

Part 3: Giving to Israel as a share of total giving

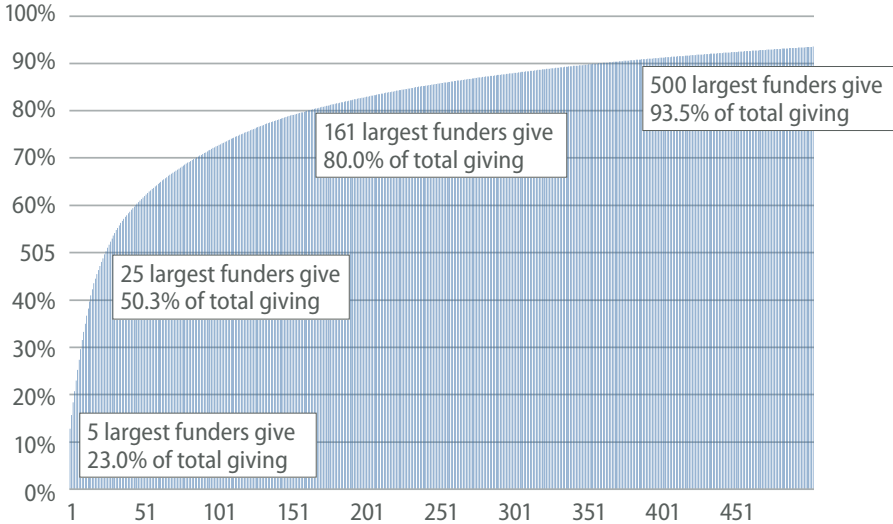
Figure 3. Giving to Israel as a share of total giving, by type of funder



Over the years, the share of giving has been stable through all types of Funders. Naturally, almost 100% of the total giving by Friends of Organizations is allocated to Israel. Many JCI (e.g.: Federations) are place-based organizations tasked with both serving their local communities and supporting Israel. During times of crisis, such as COVID-19, we would expect them to focus on their local communities. However, while the share of giving allocated to Israel dipped in 2017, before the pandemic, the overall share allocated to Israel increased slightly overall from 2015-2019.

Part 4: Share of giving to Israel by size of funders

Figure 4. Accumulating Giving: Sum of giving* by number of funders

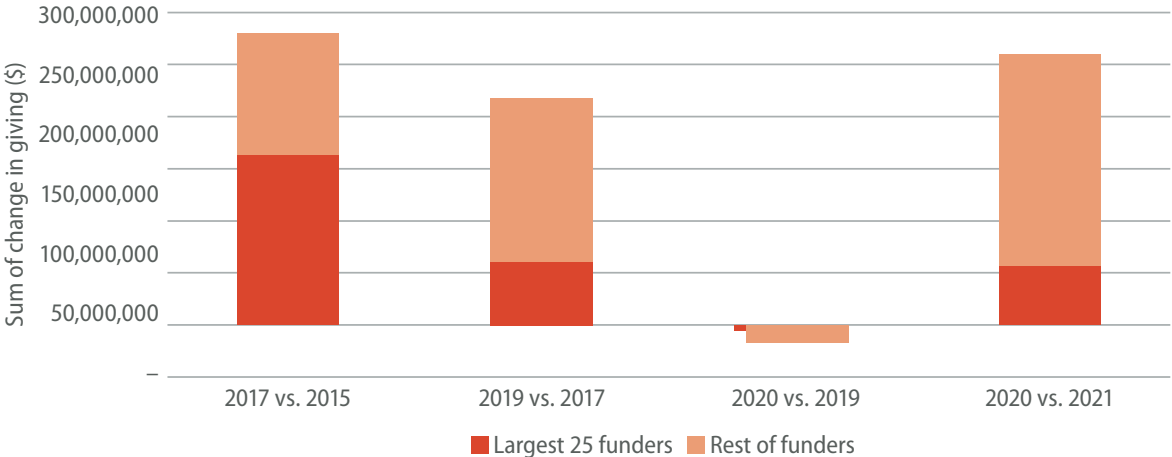


* Average Giving from 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020, and 2021.

Not surprisingly, this is quite a centralized arena such that approximately 1% of the funders (25 funders) gave approximately 50% of the total sum of giving and 7% of funders (161) gave 80% during the years surveyed. In 2015, 13 funders gave 50% of total grants. In 2021, 21 funders gave 50% of the total grants. This diffusion at the upper range of giving does reflect other decentralization trends we have seen both in philanthropy generally and in giving to Israel.

Since the share of the largest 25 funders represented between 52%-57% of total giving in the years surveyed, one might expect the changes in total giving to be also explained by the largest funders' giving. However, after 2017 the change in total giving derived mainly from the rest of the funders (all funders excluding 25 largest funders). This is mostly evident in 2020 when the change in giving by the largest 25 funders "contributed" only 1% percent to the total sum of decrease (\$131 thousand decrease out of \$17 million total decrease). In 2019 and 2021, the change in the 25 largest funders' giving was more significant yet still represented only 30% of the change (Figure 5).

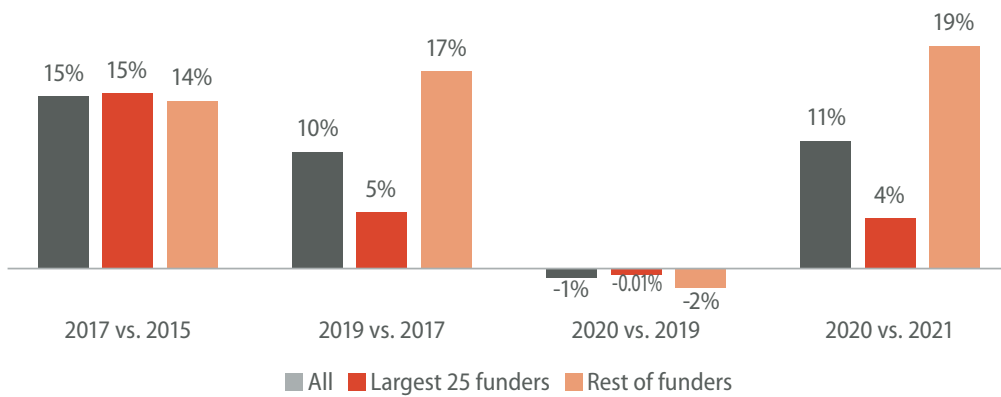
Figure 5. Distribution of the changes between years in sum of giving, by size of funder



Indeed, looking at the changes around 2020, the giving by the largest funders altogether was quite stable between 2019-2021, relative to giving by the rest of the funders (Figure 6). In addition, 56% of funders increased their giving in 2021 vs. 41% that decreased funding. This is in comparison to less than 50% of funders which increased or decreased their funding in all previous years.

After the small decline in giving in 2020, all numbers point to a compensation beyond recovery to growth in 2021.

Figure 6. Percentage of change between years in sum of giving, by size of funder



Looking Forward, with Hindsight

Nonprofits globally saw revenue challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic⁴. Donations from U.S.-based nonprofits to Israeli organizations mirrored donation trends experienced by nonprofits in the U.S. Almost 60% of U.S.-based nonprofit organizations experienced growth in donations and another 32% saw stable donations from 2015-2019. During the same period 10% saw a decrease in donations. However, 37% of organizations experienced a drop in 2020.⁵ At the same time, large private and community foundations created new COVID-19 funds and/or shifted funding priorities as a pandemic response⁶.

Looking forward, support for Israel, especially from Jewish communal institutions (JCs), 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-May 2024, Israel-related organizations reported more increases and stability than non-Israel organizations. Donations to both Israel-related and non-Israel-related organizations appear to have leveled off though, indicating stability in giving. Most organizations (77%) in this survey anticipate giving to Israel will either remain the same or increase if the Israel-Hamas conflict continues. **Our findings here support this, given that we have shown here that stability actually means consistently rising donations to Israel.**

4. Garcia, S., Carrigan, C., & Wiepking, P. (2023). Global civil society response to the COVID-19 crisis. *VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*, 34(6), 1310-1321.
5. Faulk, L. et al. (2021). *Nonprofit Trends and Impacts 2021*. Urban Institute. <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/nonprofit-trends-and-impacts-2021>
6. Finchum-Mason, E., Husted, K., & Suárez, D. (2020). Philanthropic foundation responses to COVID-19. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 49(6), 1129-1141.
7. <https://www.ccsfundraising.com/insights/jewish-philanthropy-since-october-7/>