2026

Generosity in Latin America & the Caribbean

Connecting the circuits of giving



GIVING TUESDAY LAC HUB

About GivingTuesday

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GivingTuesday is a movement which unleashes the power of generosity around the world.

The GivingTuesday Latin America and Caribbean Hub was created in 2023 to support leadership, collaboration and innovation within the GivingTuesday movement in the region, both in the 15 countries and territories where GivingTuesday has an established presence.

The Hub also plays a crucial role in expanding GivingTuesday's collaborative data work to inform better and inspire the social sector in **Latin America, the Caribbean and further afield**.

With thanks to

This report has been supported by **Tinker Foundation**. For more than 60 years, the Tinker Foundation has worked to promote social and economic development in Latin America.

Tinker realizes its mission by providing funding to civil society organizations – among them nonprofits, research institutes, and universities – working to address the region's most pressing challenges. The organizations Tinker supports use its resources to test promising ideas, extend the impact of proven models, and bring together stakeholders to solve problems in new ways.

Tinker's current funding priorities include education, governance and justice, and the health and resilience of civil society in the region.

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A generosity tradition

Tequio, or *tequitl* in Nahuatl, is a form of unpaid work common across southern Mexico, in which individuals and families come together to carry out projects that serve their community.

Also known as *faena*, *mano vuelta* or *gozona*, it is rooted in the worldviews of the Zapotec, Mixtec and other indigenous cultures of Oaxaca, and is woven into community governance. Projects carried out vary widely, from clearing roads and building schools to maintaining water systems, but *tequio*'s value goes beyond the work itself: the effort people put in together builds trust and a sense of shared responsibility, and those bonds make future joint action easier.

Despite changing social and economic contexts, *tequio* is very much alive in many Oaxacan communities, where it is seen less as an obligation than as a source of pride. Through days of shared service, "*children learn the value of work, young people find a sense of identity, and elders teach by example*"[1].

What ties all of this together is a simple conviction: that there are needs we can resolve together and responsibilities we are willing to take on for the sake of collective wellbeing. In *tequio*, solidarity and generosity stop being abstract intentions and become time, knowledge, effort and resources given to meet a shared need.



Photo credit: *Gobierno del Estado de Oaxaca / Coordinación de Comunicación Social https://www.oaxaca.gob.mx/comunicacion/embellecen-el-centro-historico-de-oaxaca-durante-el-tequio-bienestar/.*

With additional thanks to ***Jonathan Velasco*** *for sharing his knowledge.*

1 "El tequio: trabajo comunitario con raíces ancestrales." Soy Oaxaca, 26 May 2025, accessed 25 October 2026, https://www.soyoaxaca.com/blog/posts/el-tequio-trabajo-comunitario-con-races-ancestrales-bf24a6247002/. Quotation is our translation.

Executive Summary

This is the third edition of the *Generosity in Latin America and the Caribbean* report, an annual publication of the GivingTuesday Latin America and Caribbean Hub that synthesizes the principal global, regional and national research on giving, philanthropy and generosity published over the past 12 months, and highlights what they reveal about the region.

The report combines the Hub's own research with the leading global and regional studies of the year and updated country profiles. It looks at how people give, how much, through which channels, and in what conditions.

This was a year of few surprises and many confirmations, consolidation rather than discovery. The evidence points to a consistent picture: a generosity that is widespread and responsive, but poorly supported and measured.

1 South America gives less than the rest of the world

It is the continent with the lowest proportion of donors (50%, compared with 61% globally) and those who give donate a smaller share of income (0.7%, compared with 1.0%). No country in the region ranks among the ten most generous. Organizations are also the most pessimistic in the world about their own future (26% feel prepared for the next three years) and the least likely to perceive government support (9%).

2 Generosity is reactive, and thus can be activated

GivingTuesday is the most generous day of the year according to the 3.5 million transactions analyzed by the Online Giving Radar: on December 3, 2024, donors gave five times the daily average for the year. The 2024 floods in Brazil produced a large spike in giving (R$24.9 billion), followed by a settling back (R$21.1 billion in 2025). Yet 70% of Brazilians never talk about giving and 67% are never asked to give.

3 Brazil and Mexico are on opposite paths

Brazilian generosity contracted slightly in 2025, while social investment by institutes, foundations and companies held steady at around R$5.8 billion a year; Mexico posted one of the largest gains among the seven State of Generosity countries, maintains the highest trust in NGOs in the region.

4 Some of the largest circuits of giving are invisible

Remittances, the region's largest private flow, grew 132% over the decade, the fastest growth in the world. In Brazil, religious contributions (R$24.5 billion) match donations to organizations, and 57% of Brazilians give goods. Together with diaspora philanthropy, these circuits escape most measurement.

5 The environment for giving is deteriorating

Almost 90% of the population of the Americas lives in obstructed, repressed or closed civic spaces. "Foreign agent" laws are advancing just as a quarter of the region's organizations' funding comes from abroad and official development assistance fell 23% worldwide in a single year. One notable exception is Colombia, whose government published the first national strategy for philanthropy, aiming to multiply its share of the global philanthropic market by 12.5 in ten years.

6 The environment for giving is deteriorating

The Global Philanthropy Tracker 2026 covers a single country in the region, Brazil, and excluded Chile and Mexico for lack of data. The World Giving Report does not publish national data for the whole region and covers the Caribbean only through the Dominican Republic. The OECD acknowledges that Latin American domestic philanthropy remains undercounted: outside Mexico, its sample only includes 18 organizations in the region.

There is no single story of generosity in Latin America and the Caribbean: people give in different ways and for different reasons, and the conditions around them differ from one country to the next. Much of what people give flows through relationships (remittances, religious communities, gifts of goods, help for neighbors) and falls outside what most data systems were built to see.

That is changing, slowly. This report draws on a range of sources, each adding to a picture that is more complete and more nuanced than before. That picture shows generosity that is widespread and responsive: it surges when people are invited, when a crisis strikes or when a moment like GivingTuesday arrives. Whether it keeps flowing depends on three conditions: people are asked to give, their giving is counted, and the environment enables it. Where one link is missing, the circuit is incomplete.

The hope is that this evidence is also useful, both for understanding how generosity works and for acting on it: designing invitations, tools and policies that fit the way people actually give, and turning moments of peak giving into systems that sustain it.

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1. Introduction

The *Generosity in LAC Report* series began in 2024 with a simple question: what do we know about how people give in LAC? The first edition showed that the answer was "very little." The data deficit was significant and research on prosocial and generous behaviors in the region tended to be limited in availability, quality and depth. The second edition proposed ways of organizing that knowledge, including a first exploration of the concept of philanthropic identity for our region.

In this third edition, we set out to do two things. The first is to consolidate the report as an annual reference: a trusted source for tracking key findings, country-level insights and emerging trends that shape how we understand, and build, greater generosity in our region. The second is to make the report easier to use. We have separated our original research from that published by other actors, and the country profiles now present the 2025 data alongside the 2026 update, so readers can see at a glance what has changed and what has not.

As always, this report does not replace the original studies, and we encourage you to read them. Its purpose is to show where the evidence is, how much of it there is, and where we are still in the dark, so that those who fund, study, govern and practice generosity in the region can work from a shared picture.

But a shared picture is only a starting point. What matters is what we do with it. Our aim is to bring research on generosity to a wider audience: to show how data can support evidence-based decisions, and to stimulate a broader conversation about how we build the knowledge, the infrastructure and the will that allow generosity to become the transformative force it can be in the region.



JP Vergueiro
Director

GivingTuesday Latin America & Caribbean Hub

1.1 Inside the report

This report is both a reference and a starting point for understanding generosity in Latin America and the Caribbean: how people give, and how that generosity connects to philanthropy, civil society and our broader societies. It brings together original research, global and regional studies, and country-level data, and closes with recommendations on how to strengthen the evidence, the systems and the support that generosity needs to thrive in the region.

The GivingTuesday LAC Hub team collected the data throughout the year, and the sources were compiled and analyzed with the support of artificial intelligence (Claude, Anthropic). The team reviewed all AI-assisted work, and the report is published in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Part 2, **What We Found: GivingTuesday's Original Research**, sets out the findings from our own studies and data initiatives: the Online Giving Radar, the results of our work on philanthropic identity in partnership with CEMEFI, and findings from the State of Generosity initiative.

Part 3, **What We Know: Regional Roundup**, reviews the main global and regional reports published over the last twelve months. These include high-profile studies such as the World Giving Report by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), the Global Philanthropy Tracker by the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University, Private Philanthropy for Development by the OECD, Sending Money Home by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Edelman Trust Barometer by the Edelman Trust Institute, and the CIVICUS Monitor by CIVICUS.

Part 4, **What We Know: Country Factsheets**, updates the profile of each of the 33 countries in the region, with new quantitative data from each source and insights from country-specific reports where available.

Part 5, **Who Produces Knowledge: the Emerging Generosity Data Ecosystem**, presents the organizations that enrich the shared pool of knowledge on generosity in the region.

Part 6, **Conclusion: What the Evidence Points To**, draws the main conclusions from the evidence and offers practical ideas for turning data into action, so that funders, governments, organizations, researchers, media and the GivingTuesday community can help grow the region's generosity ecosystem.

Part 7, **What's Next**, reflects upon challenges and offers practical ideas for turning data into action, so that funders, governments, organizations, researchers, media and the GivingTuesday community can help grow the region's generosity ecosystem.

1.2 The evidence base

The report draws on four kinds of sources: original research, global and regional studies, national surveys and official statistics, each of which looks at generosity from a different angle. When the Generosity in LAC series began in 2024, data on generosity were scarce. Since then, the evidence base has grown slowly but steadily, with concrete progress in how data are produced and shared.

New ways of producing and sharing data are emerging. The Online Giving Radar, for example, showed that collective intelligence on giving can be built collaboratively from real transaction data, with eight competing platforms taking part. In Brazil, the Retrato da Solidariedade has established itself as an annual series with open data, and Colombia has produced an official diagnosis of giving and committed to targets.

Regular national data on individual giving exist only in Brazil. In Mexico, Generosity in Mexico contributes to the picture only sporadically. The State of Generosity, by GivingTuesday, complements the data in both countries, while the World Giving Report remains the main source for the rest of the region.

Research on institutional giving is strong in Brazil and emerging in Mexico. Brazil has two regular series on institutional social investment (the Censo GIFE and BISC), while Mexico's official satellite account for the nonprofit sector, produced by INEGI, offers a valuable new source of information. No other country in the region has equivalent measurements.

Cross-border and domestic philanthropy is also becoming easier to track, though much of the region's institutional giving remains hard to capture. The Global Philanthropy Tracker left out Chile and Mexico for lack of data, and the OECD sample includes only 18 organizations from the region outside Mexico.

Further obstacles remain in the coverage of countries, the way regions are classified and the measurement of less formal forms of giving. The Caribbean is still covered almost exclusively by the CIVICUS Monitor; CariPhil is the natural starting point for change. CAF, meanwhile, groups Mexico and Central America with the United States and Canada as "North America." Given the socioeconomic and cultural differences between them, the continental average is of limited use for the region. This

edition therefore produces its own aggregations, such as the 17-country table, and global data producers are encouraged to report Latin America and the Caribbean as distinct regions, each in its own right.

Finally, the largest circuits of generosity remain the least measured, and closing that gap is important work. Religious giving, gifts of goods and remittances move through relationships rather than formal channels, and most data systems were not built to see them. Remittances, at least, now have robust annual data, though they are still studied as financial flows rather than as generosity.

1.3 The table of invisibility

In the first edition of Generosity in LAC, in 2024, we built a table of the major global reports on philanthropy, the enabling environment and civil society, marking which countries in Latin America and the Caribbean each one covered. The result was stark: 13 of the region's 33 countries appeared in none of these so-called "global" reports.

They were effectively invisible, and the Caribbean was the most affected subregion. In 2025, we repeated the exercise with that year's reports. Because we included the CIVICUS Monitor, no country was entirely absent, but coverage remained thin. Ten countries, mostly Caribbean nations, appeared only in CIVICUS, and just four (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico) appeared in all five reports.

For this edition, we widened the lens. The 2026 table includes seven sources that cover at least ten countries in the region. By adding global reports on remittances, well-being and trust, we can show not only who is counted in research on giving, but also which countries are covered by other kinds of data and which remain unmeasured.

Four countries have **complete coverage**; they appear in all seven sources: Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. These are the only countries in the region that can be found in every dataset, whatever its subject.

A second group of thirteen countries has **broad coverage**, appearing in five or six sources. Eight of them appear in six (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala and Paraguay) and five in five (Costa Rica, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua and Uruguay). Only two Caribbean countries are among them: the Dominican Republic and Jamaica.

Five countries have **partial coverage**, appearing in three or four sources: Belize, Panama, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.

At the other end, eleven countries, one third of the region, have **minimal coverage**. Each appears in the CIVICUS Monitor and, at most, one other source, either a remittance report or GPEI. Eight appear in two sources (the Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname), and three appear in CIVICUS only (Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, and Saint Kitts and Nevis). Nine of the eleven are Caribbean island states.

Coverage is widest where generosity is not the subject. The three sources that reach 21 or 22 countries measure remittances (IFAD and IDB) and life evaluations (the World Happiness Report). The only giving survey, the World Giving Report, covers 17 countries, and the only trust survey, the OECD's, covers 10. Among Caribbean countries, only the Dominican Republic appears in either.

Presented in this format, the differences in visibility are notable. Four of the region's largest countries are fully covered, while the Caribbean remains the least visible part of the region. These differences reflect what gets measured, not who gives. Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence: where generosity goes unrecorded, it is the record that is missing, not generosity itself.

Table 1: Countries in LAC covered by global reports approaching generosity and philanthropy

Country	World Giving Report 2026	IFAD Sending Money Home 2026	IDB remittances 2025/26	OECD Trust Survey LAC 2025	World Happiness Report 2026	GPEI 2025	CIVICUS Monitor 2025	Sources covering the country
Antigua and Barbuda							✓	1
Argentina	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	6
Bahamas						✓	✓	2
Barbados						✓	✓	2
Belize		✓	✓		✓		✓	4
Bolivia	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	6
Brazil	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7
Chile	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6
Colombia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7
Costa Rica	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	5
Cuba							✓	1
Dominica		✓					✓	2
Dominican Republic	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	6
Ecuador	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	6
El Salvador	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	6
Grenada		✓					✓	2
Guatemala	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	6

Table 1 (Continued)

Country	World Giving Report 2026	IFAD Sending Money Home 2026	IDB remittances 2025/26	OECD Trust Survey LAC 2025	World Happiness Report 2026	GPEI 2025	CIVICUS Monitor 2025	Sources covering the country
Guyana			✓				✓	2
Haiti		✓	✓				✓	3
Honduras	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	5
Jamaica		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	5
Mexico	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7
Nicaragua	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	5
Panama	✓		✓		✓		✓	4
Paraguay	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	6
Peru	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7
Saint Kitts and Nevis							✓	1
Saint Lucia		✓					✓	2
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		✓					✓	2
Suriname		✓					✓	2
Trinidad and Tobago			✓		✓		✓	3
Uruguay	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	5
Venezuela					✓	✓	✓	3
Countries covered	17	21	22	10	21	13	33	



2. What We Found:
GivingTuesday's Original Research

Data and research are central to GivingTuesday's work to understand and strengthen generosity's role at the individual, societal and systemic levels. This work is enabled by the GivingTuesday Data Commons, a global community of more than 180 data partners (researchers, practitioners, giving platforms and civil society organizations) working on shared infrastructure to advance knowledge on generosity and civil society and to inform practice.

This year, research led directly by the LAC Hub spanned quantitative approaches to online giving and qualitative approaches to individual giving. Through The State of Generosity, GivingTuesday's global team contributed knowledge on generational trends in giving in Mexico and Brazil, and innovative ways of exploring the relationship between civic intent and generosity.

2.1 The Online Giving Radar

Read report >

The **Online Giving Radar (OGR)** is the first initiative, in the region and in the world, to analyze online giving data on a continental scale. Built in partnership with eight donation processing platforms, it aggregates and analyzes the donations they processed in 2024, across almost all of the region's 33 countries and 17 territories.

The picture that emerges is of a generosity made up of small, regular gifts, and responsive to moments such as GivingTuesday, when donors gave five times as much as on a typical day.

The Radar is not an estimate of the online giving market, and its results reflect the prominent role of Brazil, where six of the eight platforms operate. As a first baseline, it shows what becomes possible when platforms share their data, and it points to where the next edition can go further.

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Taken together, the transactions processed by the eight platforms in 2024 draw a first regional portrait of online giving, from how much people give and how often, to the tools they use and the borders their generosity crosses.

- **Donations were small and numerous**. In 2024, the platforms processed 3,543,154 donations, totaling approximately US$46.3 million. The average donation was US$13.07 and the median US$6.48. The most common amount was R$10 (about US$1.85).

- **Recurring donations accounted for four out of five transactions** (82.2%) but 64.6% of the total amount donated, because one-time donations, although fewer, tend to be larger.

- **December was the month with the highest monetary value donated** (US$7.49 million, 70% more than May, in second place). The number of transactions was more stable throughout the year, peaking in May (331,000) and dipping in August and September (about 267,000).

- **GivingTuesday stood out.** On December 3, 2024, 13,665 donations were recorded, 40% above the daily average for the year, totaling US$635,618, five times the 2024 daily average and the highest amount for a single day that year. The average donation that day was US$46.54 and the median US$9.26.

- **Three payment methods** account for almost 90% of transactions: direct debit (29.2%), credit card (28.6%) and boleto bank slip (27.1%). Instant payments (PIX in Brazil, PSE in Colombia) come fourth (8.3%).

- **Women made two out of three donations:** among transactions with gender identified (75% of the total), 67% were made by women and 33% by men.

- **Most giving stays close to home. 95% of donations are domestic, but giving also crosses borders.** The platforms received donations from 102 countries on five continents and processed donations from the region to 122 countries, from Afghanistan to Ukraine. Only two countries in the region recorded no donations abroad (Cuba and Dominica), and only five received no donations from abroad (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago).

Online Giving in 2024: The Big Picture

US $46.3M

Donated

US $6.48

Median donation

US $13.07

Average donation

3,543,154

Donations **processed**

85%

Of the money donated was processed in **Brazil**

R$ 10

Brazilian reais was the most common donation amount **(US $1.85 equivalent)**

US $635,618

Were donated on **GivingTuesday**, the most generous day of 2024

40%

More donations were processed on **GivingTuesday** 2024 than on an average day in 2024

5x

More money was donated on **GivingTuesday** than on a typical day in 2024

2.2 The State of Generosity

Read report >

The State of Generosity is the GivingTuesday Data Commons' annual report on global giving patterns. The 2025 edition, published in 2026, *Widening the Lens*, observes that as institutional aid retreats, individual and community generosity is sustaining people and communities. It therefore looks beyond formal institutions to measure generosity in all its forms.

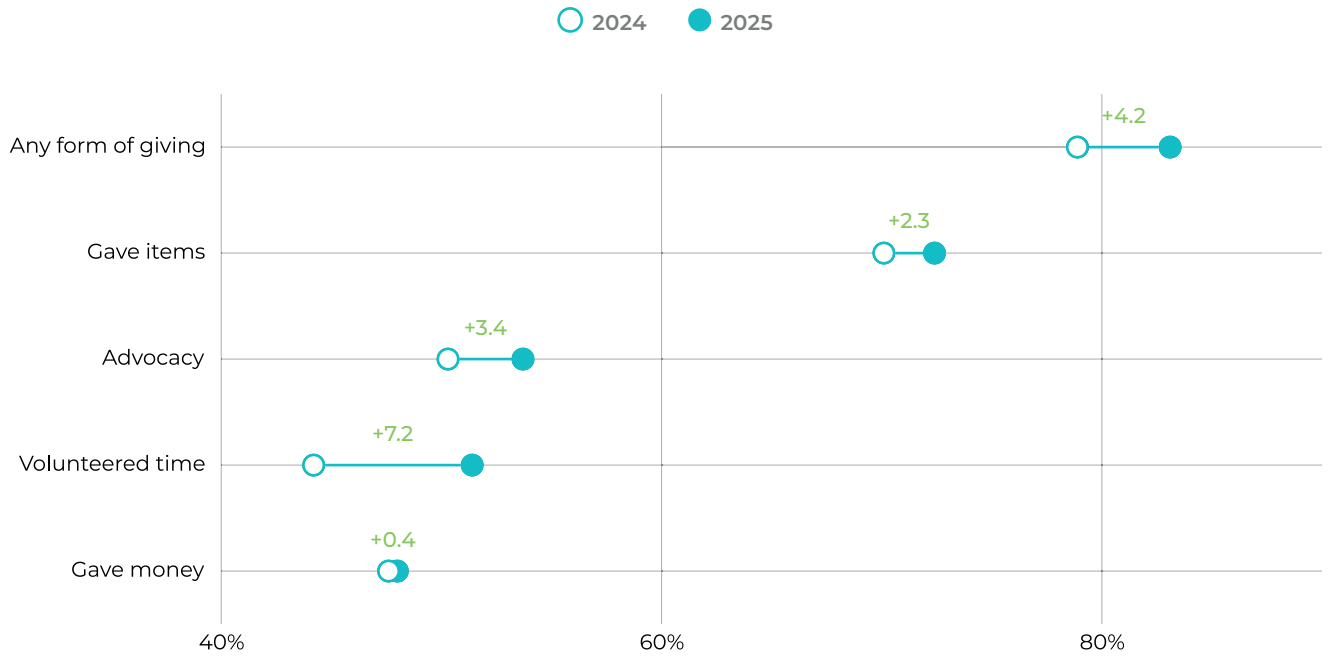
The report estimates global monetary flows of around US$1.95 trillion a year, of which US$1.616 trillion comes from individuals. Between 2024 and 2025, the only category that fell was official development assistance, by 23.1%, to US$174 billion. Remittances involve around one in nine people worldwide and account for 3% or more of GDP in more than 60 countries.

Behind these global figures is the Global Omnibus Survey, which covers seven countries with around 1,000 respondents in each. Brazil and Mexico are among them, and more detailed country snapshots are available for both. These show who gives, how and to whom, from direct support to individuals to formal charitable organizations and informal community groups, and through which channels, in person and online. They also track how participation has changed from one year to the next, explore civic values such as beliefs about individual agency and trust in institutions, and break the data down by age. That makes it possible to test some common assumptions about how younger and older generations give.

Mexico: generosity grows, with young people in the mix

The panorama in Mexico is optimistic: participation in all modes of giving (monetary, items, volunteering and advocacy) rose to 83% of respondents, up from 79% in 2024. The number of individuals reporting they gave items showed steady growth, and volunteering recorded the largest increase in participation. As for where people gave, 73% of people supported other individuals directly, while 69% supported formal charitable organizations, and 66% informal community groups.

Figure 1: Mexico giving by type, 2024 vs 2025

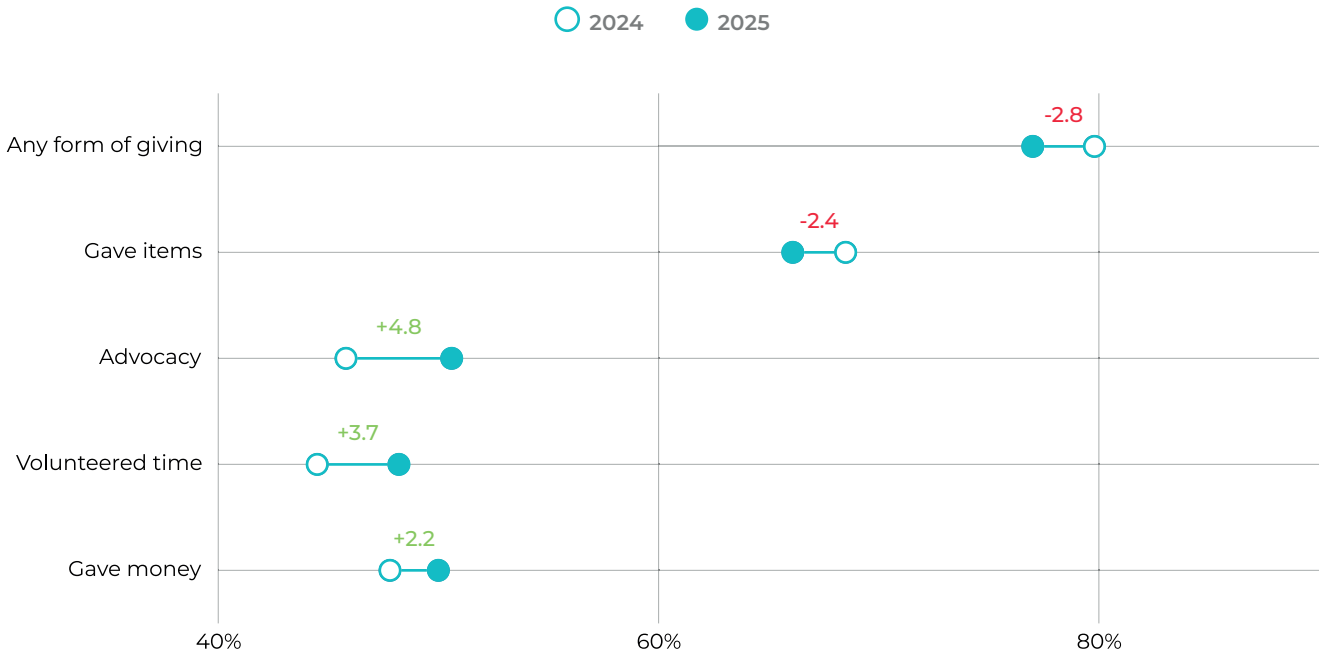


Yet it's how people give that is most interesting. Older adults rely more on direct personal giving: 63% of those aged 50 to 74 gave directly to a person in need, compared with 40% of under-35s. Younger adults, unsurprisingly, are more likely to give online. The surprise is where that online giving goes: to formal charitable organizations, and at higher rates than among older adults. Under-35s give through charity websites (20%) and intermediary platforms like GlobalGiving (19%), against 9% and 14% of those aged 50 to 74s. That doesn't mean young people give more than older people overall, but it does show where they give. The young people so often assumed to be clicking past causes are, in fact, giving to them.

Brazil: generosity dips, but young people show up in person

Brazil shows the other side of the picture: under-35s are not retreating to their screens. Online giving to charity websites fell in 2025 across all three age groups, and young Brazilians are giving more in person. Under-35s showed a rise in in-person giving, from 16% in 2024 to 28% in 2025

Figure 2: Brazil giving by type, 2024 vs 2025



This is happening against a backdrop of slight decline in giving overall: the share of Brazilians who recorded at least one act of generosity slipped from 80% to 77%, and giving to formal nonprofits fell from 70% to 62%, although giving to informal groups rose slightly.

We can't yet say why, but one number that stands out in relation to the survey section on civic values is that only 35% of Brazilians under 35 agree that everyone has the power to succeed, the lowest of the countries surveyed, and well below the US (50%), Great Britain (55%) and Kenya (86%). It's only a hypothesis, but it may be that a generation that is less confident in institutions or individual effort may put its trust in relationships with people around them.

Taken together, the Mexican and Brazilian results suggest that common assumptions about how younger people give deserve to be tested against data, and that age-disaggregated evidence can inform more precise strategies for engaging them. Further editions will show whether these shifts endure.

2.3 Philanthropic Identities in Mexico

*With special thanks to **Tania Hernández, Rodrigo Charvel-Peyret and the team at CEMEFI** for their work on this project. A fuller account of the research and its results will be published in early 2027.*

Building on the work begun in 2025, the GivingTuesday LAC Hub and Cemefi deepened their collaboration to examine the motivations behind giving and the construction of identity among individuals and institutions that give, starting with Mexico.

Philanthropic identity is understood as the meanings that individuals and organizations attribute to their role in philanthropy. For Schervish (1995, 2006), whose work laid the sociological foundations of the concept, it can be understood as the act of giving associated with a biography: the combination of personal capacity and the moral compass that guides individuals toward causes throughout their lives.

These identities are not fixed: they are shaped by personal histories, relationships and context, and they interact across three levels. At the micro, or individual, level, the focus is on how a person sees themselves when giving, and how their values, beliefs and experiences find expression through giving. At the meso level, it is on how people and organizations define their role and give it meaning, in ways that enable or limit the exchange of resources. The macro level is that of philanthropic culture: the values, norms, historical legacies, meanings and practices that shape giving in a society.

Within this framework, we set out to explore whether the motivations and identities associated with giving in Mexico differ from those observed in other countries, contributing evidence toward the question of what constitutes philanthropic culture in Mexico. The research followed two parallel strands, both exploratory and qualitative:

Spotlight on individual givers

Participants were recruited through an open call for adult residents who had donated money in the previous year, and the fieldwork comprised two focus groups (11 participants), 19 in-depth interviews with donors and three with philanthropy specialists. From these accounts the research identified six donor profiles, named for their most representative characteristics: spontaneous, social, activist, witness, planned and connector. Each was examined across five dimensions: the origin of the practice, what activates giving, what counts as giving (and what does not), the relationship with the social sector in terms of donations and direct help, and the evidence and results donors expect.

The ***spontaneous*** donor, without seeking a particular cause, responds to a visible need that can be met immediately; there is no fixed cause or channel, and what matters is the ability to act when help is needed. The ***social*** donor, by contrast, is best understood through relationships: giving is activated when someone in the family, social or work network extends an invitation, and trust in the person asking weighs more than the cause itself. For the *activist*, the emphasis lies in supporting a cause they defend, which in turn provides a sense of belonging. Their giving combines money, goods and time, and the line between direct and formal help is blurred, since they often support collectives more than established institutions. The ***witness*** has lived an experience, directly or through someone close, that made them aware of a need requiring attention, and that experience defines the cause they support. The *planned* donor gives in response to a commitment to a person or institution, seeing donation as a way of giving back, guided by a sense of responsibility and debt to society.

The ***connector*** differs in kind. Connectors are defined by their influence on others: they see themselves as a bridge, mobilizing causes and resources of every type (money, goods and volunteering), and regard their network as their capital. Where the other profiles describe why and how a person gives, this one describes what a donor does with their influence. It is therefore less a separate type than an upgrade open to donors of other profiles. The research found social, activist, witness and planned donors who also act as connectors, and who draw on the strengths of their own profile to bring others in: personal relationships to reach social donors, for example, or evidence of results to reach planned donors.

Table 2: Archetypes of individual philanthropic identity

	What do they value? *What they consider important in life, in general.*	**How do they see themselves?** *How their identity shapes, and is shaped by, how they give.*	**What motivates them?** *The inner drive that leads them to give.*	**What triggers giving?** *The external trigger that prompts a donation at a given moment.*	**How can they be invited to give?** *Ways of giving or causes that best connect with this identity and invite them to act.*	
Spontaneous *Gives in response to a specific, visible request, with no planning or fixed cause, almost always in small amounts.*	The simplicity of helping in the moment, without planning or committing to a fixed cause.	Sees themselves as supportive and helpful: someone who reacts in the moment to a need.	Feeling that their help makes a direct, immediate difference.	A direct encounter with a need that sparks immediate empathy: a request on the street, a raffle, a notice.	Donations on the street, round-ups at checkout, raffles, emergency collections, or causes with a visible, immediate need.	
Social *Gives because they trust the person asking, not necessarily the organization.*	Closeness and the trust placed in the person asking, more than in the cause itself.	Sees themselves as someone who "serves" the people close to them: a loyal friend who can be counted on.	Not letting down the person who asked, or failing that trust.	A direct, genuine request from someone in their close circle.	Peer-to-peer collections, recommendations from friends or family, "invite a friend" campaigns, memberships by referral.	***Profiles that can become Connector:*** *Social, Activist, Witness and Planner.*
Activist *Their identity and values define both what and whom they give to, as well as what they flatly refuse to support.*	Coherence between what they do, what they believe and what they are willing to reject.	Identifies as part of a community, collective or movement with people who share their values.	Feeling that their action is consistent with what they believe and defend.	Exposure to content that confirms or threatens their values, such as a post about a visible crisis.	Campaigns tied to a specific cause (gender, human rights, environment), donations after signing a petition, advocacy content on social media.	
Witness *Gives to the cause that touched them or their family personally. Once they find it, they sustain it with long-term loyalty.*	The chance to give back or to make sense of an experience that marked them personally.	Sees themselves as a survivor, part of a group that shares the same experience.	Giving meaning to what they lived through, so that it is not in vain.	Contact with something or someone that reconnects them with that experience.	Health or illness causes, memorial collections, gifts in honor of someone, support groups for people with similar experiences.	
Planner *Gives in a structured, budgeted and recurring way, almost as part of their personal or business administration.*	Order, consistency and the certainty that their support arrives and will be put to good use.	Sees themselves as someone who gives back what they have received, in a planned and conscious way.	The peace of mind of having done what they owed.	A formal, well-planned request that shows seriousness, order and clear results.	Recurring or monthly donations, payroll giving programs, employer-matched donations, formal proposals or endowment funds.	
Connector* *Doesn't just give: organizes campaigns, recruits donors and acts as a bridge between the cause and their social/informal network.*	Mobilizing others and having impact beyond their own contribution.	Sees themselves as powerful: someone with real influence over their social network.	The pleasure of being the bridge between the cause and their community, and seeing others join thanks to them.	A concrete, shareable goal: an event, a campaign or a financial target they can organize and spread.	Ambassador or campaign leader roles, peer fundraising challenges, tools to create their own page or collection team, public recognition for those who recruit donors.	

Source: Philanthropic Identities, GivingTuesday LAC Hub

*Connector is not exclusive: people from any other profile can "level up" and become a Connector, except Spontaneous donors, who rarely do.

Spotlight on institutional donors

For donor organizations, the central question is how an initial act of generosity becomes an organizational identity, and how that identity is preserved or transformed over time. To explore this question, Cemefi conducted two virtual focus groups in June 2026, involving seven participants in total, each representing a different donor organization or foundation. Participants held leadership positions and had knowledge of their organization's origins and purpose. The organizations represented diverse institutional backgrounds and approaches to philanthropy, including family- and business-related foundations, first- and second-tier organizations, donor, operating and mixed models. The discussions were guided by eight semi-structured questions.

Identity plays a somewhat different role in these organizations than it does for individual donors. Following Albert and Whetten (1985), the identity of an organization is what its members consider central (the purposes and values at its core), distinctive (what sets it apart from other donor organizations) and relatively enduring (what is expected to continue, even as its expression changes). In a foundation, this starting point is strongly marked by the founder or founding family, who imprint their principles on the organization. But, as the literature notes, that imprint does not remain intact: it is negotiated by those who join over time, whether relatives, boards, trustees, professional teams or the company, until it becomes an organizational reality that is enacted both inside and outside the foundation (Ashforth, 2016; Barman, 2017). The findings suggest that this process involves distinguishing between a relatively enduring core —the organization's purpose, values and founding legacy— and a more adaptable layer that may evolve over time, including the causes supported, the populations prioritized and the strategies used. Organizational identity is therefore not simply inherited from a founder; it may be inherited, co-created and reshaped through institutional practice.

In practice, that negotiation follows a recognizable course. The most widespread pattern in the foundations' accounts is a transition from informal, personal giving with no follow-up to structured and, above all, institutionalized action. The evidence supports at least three routes of identity formation, which are not mutually exclusive: an identity inherited and later institutionalized, in which the founder's imprint is formalized after their death; an identity co-created from the outset of the formal foundation, with consultants, family and employees; and an identity linked to a company but seeking

autonomy in decisions and brand, in contrast to others that embrace the fusion of company and family. Autonomy from the company is therefore not a universal stage of maturity but an identity decision that some foundations take and others reject.The findings also highlight the role of boards, committees and institutional guidelines in translating and protecting organizational identity. These mechanisms help move decision-making beyond individual preferences, provide continuity and safeguard the organization's purpose. Professionalization does not necessarily replace the founder's or family's identity; rather, it can serve as a process of mediation through which the original legacy is interpreted and put into practice. Its transmission to new generations is an active and ongoing task, rather than an automatic outcome.

Taken together, the foundations' accounts describe identity as a process more than a fixed attribute: an initial imprint that is negotiated, formalized, put into practice and eventually passed on.

Table 3: Stages in the development of an institution's philanthropic identity

1	Initial imprint	The founder's values mark early giving e.g. a check given with no follow-up
2	Negotiation	Family, boards, and teams shape it e.g. purpose built with family and staff
3	Institutionalization	Fixed in missions, rules and governance e.g. after the founder's death
4	Everyday implementation	Shown in decisions, alliances, public action e.g. a committee handles personal requests
5	Transmission and transformation	New generations carry it on and adapt it e.g. new projects, same founding principles

The research also made it possible to sketch a very tentative typology of donor foundations. They differ most clearly in two respects: how close they are to the company and what role the family plays. Combined, these differences give rise to five types, offered as illustrations and not as a validated typology.

Table 4: Tentative archetypes of institutional philanthropic identity

Type	What it is	Company relationship	Role of the family
The Guardian	Safeguards a fixed founding purpose, and defends its core ceremonially	Deliberate distance	Active, bounded by mandates
The Integrator	Weaves foundation, family and company into one culture, letting the cause evolve with needs	Fused with company culture	Active, mediated by committees
The Institution	Runs on formal, voted governance and a mandate set by the corporate parent	Corporate by design	Limited; a board decides
The Family Table	Held together by many family members across generations, more than by a fixed doctrine	Family-led	Maximum: many members involved
The Independent	Born in the family and still family in practice, but distancing itself from the company brand	Seeking symbolic distance	Closed in practice

Who we are when we give

We set out to explore the motivations and identities behind giving in Mexico, as a step toward a broader enquiry into philanthropic culture there. The concept of philanthropic identity has been developed mostly in the global North, and these are first insights into categories grounded in Mexican experience. These findings offer an initial, context-grounded perspective on how philanthropic identities are understood and constructed in Mexico.

With small samples, the findings describe meanings, processes and tensions more than they measure how common any of them are. Even so, the approach proved cost-effective and insightful, and is worth sharing and refining with partners in other countries. The institutional strand, in particular, draws on a small, purposive and diverse group of seven participants representing seven organizations. Its findings are exploratory and should be understood as insights into organizational meanings, processes and tensions, rather than as generalizable conclusions about donor organizations or philanthropic culture in Mexico.

Although individual donors and donor organizations differ in their contexts, samples, methods and levels of analysis, the two strands point to a shared insight: philanthropic identity is neither fixed nor predetermined. Among individual donors, giving is not explained by a fixed personality trait, but is shaped by context, relationships and the identities that become salient in a particular moment. At the organizational level, philanthropic identity is also not simply inherited or immutable; it is negotiated and reshaped over time through founding legacies, shared values, institutional decisions and changing contexts. Read together, the two strands suggest that giving, whether individual or institutional, emerges from identities that are continually activated, interpreted and transformed.

Philanthropic identity is not inherited; it is built, negotiated and sustained over time. An organization's founding legacy becomes meaningful when it is translated into shared purpose, institutional practices and decisions. Boards, committees and professional teams can play a critical role, helping safeguard the organization's core while enabling it to respond to changing contexts and new generations. For individual givers, there is an opportunity to build sustained generosity by extending an invitation that fits a donor's profile while also recognizing that what moves them can change over time. Either way, meaningful collaboration begins by recognizing not only the resources that people and organizations contribute, but also the identity, values and purpose behind their giving.

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3. What We Know:
Regional Roundup

Alongside our own research, a number of global and regional studies published since October 2025 shed light on giving, philanthropy and civil society in Latin America and the Caribbean. This chapter brings together those most relevant to the region, from surveys of donor behavior and organizational health to studies of cross-border philanthropy, remittances, trust and civic space.

Few of these studies were designed with the region in mind, and many cover only some of its countries. For each one, we set out what it measures, who produced it and what it tells us about LAC, noting where the region is only partly visible. As with the rest of this report, the summaries are a guide to the original sources, not a substitute for them.

3.1 World Giving Report 2026

Scope

The World Giving Report (WGR), published by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), is the successor to the World Giving Index. It comes in two volumes: Donor Insights looks at people (who gives, how much, to whom and why), while Charity Insights looks at organizations (the health of the sector, its funding and its challenges).

The report's website also offers a country comparison tool, from which the national data in this section were extracted. In the region, CAF works with five partners to support contextualization and dissemination: RACI (Argentina), IDIS (Brazil), Comunidad de Organizaciones Solidarias (Chile), AFE (Colombia) and Cemefi (Mexico).

CAF divides the region into "South America" and "North America." Mexico, the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic are classified as "North America," alongside the United States and Canada. As a result, regional comparisons are less straightforward, and the Caribbean is represented only by the Dominican Republic.

Key findings

South America is the region where people are least likely to give. According to Donor Insights, people in Asia and Africa were the most likely to give, while South Americans were the least likely: 50% gave money in 2025, compared with 61% globally. People also give a smaller share of their income, 0.7% of income against a global average of 1.0%.

The way South Americans give, however, looks very much like the rest of the world, only at lower levels. Most give directly to people in need (30%, versus 36% globally), followed by giving to organizations (25%, versus 34%) and giving for religious reasons (17%, versus 23%).

When it comes to causes, children and young people come first, supported by 30% of donors and volunteers. It is also the only cause that appears among the top five on every continent, which makes it a common thread across different giving cultures.
Finally, government can play a part. Among South Americans who believe their government encourages giving, 48% say the main reason is that it speaks positively about charities. That is a higher share than in Europe (40%) and North America (43%).
The WGR comparison tool makes it possible to go beyond continental averages. The table below brings together the main indicators for the 17 Latin American and Caribbean countries covered by the survey.

Highlights by country

Giving directly to people in need is the most common channel in almost every country in the region. The exceptions are Chile and Uruguay, where giving to organizations comes first, and Brazil, where religious giving ties with direct giving (33% each).



Honduras is the only country in the region to reach the global average of 1.0% of income given. In the previous edition, Honduras, the Dominican Republic and El Salvador led the region.



Chile has the region's highest giving rate: 64% of people gave money, above the global average. It also leads on giving to organizations (44%, ten points above the global average), yet it has one of the lowest proportions of income given (0.6%).



Brazil is the only one of the five largest countries to exceed the global average in trust in organizations (7.5), perceived positive impact (70%) and community belonging (72%). It also leads the region on two indicators the WGR associates with greater generosity: acceptance of talking about one's own giving (5.2 out of 7) and how often people talk about it (4.3 out of 7). Brazil has the highest rate of in-kind giving: 57% of the population gave items to organizations or people, more than double the global average (24%).



Uruguay has the lowest share of income given (0.4%), the lowest volunteering rate (16%) and the lowest rate of religious giving (4%).



No country in the region reaches the 80% community belonging threshold that the report associates with the most generous countries. Bolivia (43%), Costa Rica (45%), Nicaragua (48%), El Salvador (49%) and Uruguay (49%) are in the group with the lowest sense of belonging.

Table 5: World Giving Report 2026 | Giving behaviors and attitudes in 17 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean

Country	Total donors (% pop.)	Charity donors (% pop.)	Religious donors (% pop.)	Direct donors (% pop.)	Total donations (% income)	Acceptability of talking about own generosity (score of 7)	Frequency of talking about generosity with friends (score of 7)	Volunteers (% pop.)
Global average	61	34	23	36	1	4.8	3.8	24
South America (CAF aggregate)	50	25	17	30	0,7	4.7	3.5	24
LAC aggregate (Hub, unweighted mean of 17 countries)	49.9	21.7	18.2	31.4	0.8	4.8	3.5	24.9
Argentina	47	25	10	30	0.6	4.5	3.1	21
Bolivia	46	19	18	25	0.6	4.7	3.3	29
Brazil	59	28	33	33	0.9	5.2	4.3	19
Chile	64	44	14	36	0.6	4.5	3.3	19
Colombia	54	21	20	36	0.9	4.8	3.6	26
Costa Rica	57	25	17	40	0.7	4.7	3.4	24
Dominican Republic	41	13	15	26	0.9	5.1	3.9	26
Ecuador	41	13	17	28	0.7	4.9	3.7	26
El Salvador	47	11	22	33	0.9	4.7	3.6	28
Guatemala	51	22	21	32	0.8	5.1	3.9	19
Honduras	54	19	20	40	1.0	5.1	3.6	31
Mexico	52	23	20	34	0.9	5.0	3,7	24
Nicaragua	39	9	17	27	0.7	4.5	3.4	25
Panama	53	25	22	29	0.7	4.7	3.6	32
Paraguay	52	23	21	32	0.7	4.6	3.3	29
Peru	48	19	18	31	0.8	5.1	3.7	29
Uruguay	44	30	4	21	0.4	4.1	2.8	16

3.2 Global Philanthropy Tracker 2026

Scope

The Global Philanthropy Tracker (GPT), an initiative of the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy now in its 12th edition, is the only ongoing effort to measure cross-border private philanthropy on a global scale: donations from individuals, companies, foundations and other private sources to civil society organizations based in other countries, or to domestic organizations working on international causes. The report compares this flow with three others: official development assistance (ODA), migrant remittances and private capital investment in aid-recipient countries. The 2026 edition covers 47 countries and uses 2023 as its reference year.

Brazil is the only Latin American or Caribbean country included in the 2026 edition. Chile and Mexico, which were in the 2023 edition, were excluded "due to a lack of updated data on cross-border philanthropy," the same reason Greece was dropped. In the report's regional breakdown, "Latin America" appears with a single country, alongside Europe (26), Africa (7), the Middle East (5), Asia (4), North America (2) and Oceania (2). No organization from the region is among the institutional research partners.

Key findings

Brazil's combined cross-border resource flows reached US$3.4 billion in 2023, equivalent to 0.16% of its gross national income (GNI). Remittances sent by migrants living in Brazil account for two thirds of that total (US$2.3 billion, 0.11% of GNI), followed by ODA (US$1.1 billion, 0.05%) and, far behind, cross-border philanthropy (US$24 million, 0.001%). The GPT has no estimate of private capital investment for Brazil. Within the group of ten upper-middle-income countries, Brazil ranks third in total cross-border flows, behind China (US$23.3 billion) and Türkiye (US$8.7 billion), and the report notes that it contributed the most as a share of GNI among the emerging markets of its region.

In cross-border philanthropy specifically, Brazil is also the third largest donor among upper-middle-income countries, behind Türkiye (US$367 million) and China (US$51 million), and the two countries together account for most of the group's US$471 million. Measured against income, however, Brazil's 0.001% of GNI is among the lowest values in the entire sample; Bosnia and Herzegovina (0.03%) and Türkiye (0.03%) lead the group. In ODA as a share of GNI, Brazil's 0.05% is second among upper-middle-income countries, behind only Türkiye (0.61%) and ahead of South Africa (0.03%) and China (0.02%).

Since the GPT measures only the sending side, there are no data on how much the region receives in international philanthropy. In the analysis of donors' priority regions in 2023, only one of the 17 countries with destination data (Spain) listed Latin America and the Caribbean among its top three recipient regions; in 2020, there were four.

3.3 Private Philanthropy for Development

Scope

In 2026, the OECD published the third edition of Private *Philanthropy for Development: Taking Stock of Philanthropy's Contribution to Development*, a study by the organization's Centre on Philanthropy that measures private philanthropy directed to ODA-eligible countries in a format comparable to official development assistance (ODA). This edition covers 2020 to 2023, with financial data from 506 philanthropic organizations based in 28 countries (205 in the previous edition), including, for the first time, the domestic philanthropy of large foundations in China, India and Mexico.

Key findings

Between 2020 and 2023, private philanthropy for development totaled US$68.2 billion. Of that, US$52.8 billion was cross-border and US$15.4 billion domestic, or about US$17 billion a year. That is equivalent to 10% of gross ODA over the same period (US$769.8 billion).

The two flows moved in opposite directions. The annual cross-border flow rose from US$12.6 billion in 2020 to US$13.4 billion in 2023, while the domestic flow fell from US$4.6 billion to US$3.5 billion.

Funds are concentrated in a few sources. The United States provides about half the total (US$32 billion), and the Gates Foundation alone accounts for 28%. Spain is the third largest source (US$5.1 billion), "largely due to the BBVA Microfinance Foundation's support to cross-border initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean." Mexico ranks seventh (US$2.9 billion).

By destination, Africa received the most, with US$17.6 billion (33% of the cross-border flow). Latin America and the Caribbean followed with US$7.8 billion, and then Asia with US$6.2 billion. By sector, health (40%) and education (11%) together take about half of the resources.

Very little of this money goes straight to local organizations: only 11% of cross-border philanthropy (US$5 billion) is channeled directly to local entities.

China, India and Mexico stand out for the opposite reason: in all three, domestic philanthropy exceeds cross-border philanthropy, making up 94%, 65% and 88% of each country's total, respectively.

The report includes a box dedicated to Mexico, based on the study *Private Philanthropy for Development in Mexico* (OECD, 2026, revised edition), carried out with data from more than 300 organizations. Between 2020 and 2023, the 328 largest domestic organizations disbursed US$3.4 billion, compared with US$274 million from 27 cross-border donors and US$3.2 billion from DAC members. The ten largest domestic funders account for almost half the total, and Fundación Carlos Slim alone for more than US$670 million. Domestic philanthropy concentrates more than 70% of its re-

sources on social services, prioritizes young people and people in acute poverty, and is geographically concentrated in Mexico City (US$780 million) and Nuevo León; only a third of donations explicitly target women and girls. In the sector breakdowns of the global report, Mexico is the 7th largest recipient in health (US$0.6 billion) and the 4th in education (US$0.7 billion), in both cases predominantly from domestic resources.

In government and civil society, Mexico received US$304 million, Brazil US$180 million, Latin America regional US$166 million and Peru US$113 million. In environmental protection, Brazil (US$0.14 billion) is the third largest recipient in the world, followed by Mexico (US$0.12 billion), South America regional (US$0.11 billion) and Colombia (US$0.07 billion); Colombia is the largest recipient of environmental ODA (US$1.1 billion). In gender-focused funding, Peru and Mexico received about US$90 million each. Fundação Itaú Social is among the five most connected organizations in the global co-funding network mapped by the OECD, with 52 partners across two projects.

Table 6: OECD | Key Findings in Latin America and the Caribbean

Indicator (2020 to 2023)	Value
Cross-border philanthropy received by the region	US$7.8 billion (2nd region, after Africa)
Total philanthropy received per year (Cross-border + Domestic)	US$2.7 bn (2020), 2.9 bn (2021), 2.8 bn (2022), 2.3 bn (2023)
ODA received by the region	US$44 billion (about US$11 billion a year)
South America, cross-border philanthropy	US$5.9 billion (2nd sub-region in the world, after East Africa)
Largest recipients in the region (Total)	**Mexico** US$3.3 bn (3rd in the world); **Peru** US$3.0 bn (4th); **Colombia** US$1.9 bn (5th)
Largest donor to the region	BBVA Microfinance Foundation, US$5.0 billion, "in non-concessional loans"
Next largest donors	Fundación Carlos Slim US$0.6 bn (domestic); Open Society US$0.4 bn; Howard G. Buffett, Ford and Bezos Earth Fund US$0.3 bn each; Fundación BBVA México US$0.2 bn
Domestic philanthropy captured outside Mexico	**Brazil** US$39.2 million; **Colombia** US$22.2 million
Organizations from the region in the sample	**Mexico** 127; **Brazil** 12; **Colombia** 5; **Guatemala** 1; **Panama** 1

3.4 Remittances: Sending Money Home 2026

Scope



Migrant remittances are the largest private flow of resources to the region. *Sending Money Home 2026: Beyond remittances, from lifeline to resilience, one family at a time*, the fifth edition of a series launched in 2007 by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), defines family remittances as "the portion of income that migrants send to relatives and others in their communities of origin" and describes them as "private transfers made voluntarily by migrants to support their families, often at considerable personal sacrifice." The report covers 130 low- and middle-income countries between 2016 and 2025; because only 52 of them had official 2025 data by July 2026, the "2025" figures for the remaining countries use the latest available year.

Key findings

Remittances to low- and middle-income countries totaled US$728.6 billion in 2025, 94% more than in 2016, exceeding both official development assistance and foreign direct investment. Around 220 million migrants support 1.1 billion relatives, one in every six people in the world. Three quarters of remittances cover immediate needs (food, rent, bills), and the remaining quarter, more than US$180 billion a year, goes to health, education, housing, savings and small businesses. More than half of all remittances are now initiated digitally. In 23 countries, remittances exceed 10% of GDP; the five most dependent countries in the world include Honduras (30%) and El Salvador (28%).

The region saw the fastest growth in the world over the decade: remittances received rose from US$72.6 billion (2016) to US$168.6 billion (2025), an increase of 132%, and the region's share of the global total rose from 19% to 23%. The number of emigrants grew by 41%, to around 44 million. Remittances are equivalent to 104% of net foreign direct investment in the region (352% in the Caribbean; 234% in Central America, which in the report includes Mexico).

Mexico received US$64.4 billion, 38% of the regional total, and is the second-largest recipient in the world, after India. Remittances to Guatemala nearly tripled over the decade. Five countries (Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, Dominican Republic and Honduras) received around US$123 billion, 73% of the regional total. Four of the five most remittance-dependent economies in the world are in Central America: Honduras (30% of GDP), El Salvador (28%), Nicaragua (27%) and Guatemala (19%); in Haiti, remittances are equivalent to 17% of GDP and to more than eight times the value of exports. IFAD estimates that 14% of remittances to the region (US$24.1 billion) reach rural areas, the lowest share among the regions in the report. Among people in the region who receive remittances, 50% have an account with digital access, compared with 40% of those who do not; 30% of adults in the region have no account.

Table 7: IFAD | Key Findings on Remittances in Latin America and the Caribbean

Subregion	2016 (US$ bn)	2025 (US$ bn)	Change	Cost of sending US$200 (2025, non-bank)
Central America (Incl. Mexico)	46.5	113.4	+144%	3.9%
South America	15.8	34.8	+121%	7.2%
Caribbean	10.3	20.3	+97%	6.0%
Latin America and the Caribbean	72.6	168.6	+132%	5.9%

Table 8: IFAD | Remittances received by 15 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean 2025

Country	Remittances 2025 (US$ million)	% of GDP	% of exports	Change 2016 to 2025
Mexico	64,392	4%	9%	+120%
Guatemala	21,644	19%	113%	+194%
Colombia	13,129	3%	19%	+153%
Dominican Republic	12,411	10%	41%	+125%
Honduras	11,927	30%	86%	+209%
El Salvador	10,099	28%	86%	+121%
Ecuador	7,734	6%	19%	+196%
Peru	5,299	2%	5%	+80%
Nicaragua	5,246	27%	57%	+314%
Brazil	4,758	<1%	1%	+74%
Haiti	4,111	17%	822%	+85%
Jamaica	3,564	16%	N/A	+46%
Paraguay	1,526	3%	8%	+132%
Bolivia	1,268	2%	11%	+2%
Argentina	916	<1%	1%	+134%

3.5 World Happiness Report 2026

Scope

The theme of the World Happiness Report 2026 is “Happiness and social media.” Unlike the 2025 edition, which focused on “caring and sharing” and was summarized in our previous report, the 2026 edition has no chapter on benevolence and no country tables on donating, volunteering or helping strangers. Generosity appears only as one of the six factors in the model that explains life evaluations: the residual, after accounting for GDP per capita, of the share of people who donated money to a charity in the previous month (Gallup World Poll). The ranking uses the 2023 to 2025 average of the Cantril ladder (0 to 10), with around 1,000 interviews per country per year, in 147 countries.

Key findings

Finland remains first (7.764), followed by Iceland, Denmark and Costa Rica (4th, 7.439), “the highest position ever achieved by a Latin American country.” Mexico follows as the region’s next-ranked country, at 12th (6.972). Twenty-one countries in the region are among the top 80.

Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic are among the countries that gained more than one point since 2006 to 2010; Venezuela is among the eight that lost more than one point. Six of the ten countries with the highest frequency of positive emotions are in Latin America.

The report reiterates that “Latin American countries still have average life evaluations significantly higher than predicted by the model (about 0.5 on the 0 to 10 scale),” a gap “attributed to a variety of factors, including some unique features of family and social life in Latin American countries”; perceived corruption, worse than average in the region, has its effects “offset by stronger close social networks.” In the six-factor model, social support (having someone to count on in times of need) carries the greatest weight; generosity is not statistically significant for life evaluations but is significant for positive emotions, and the authors state that “freedom and generosity have large impacts on positive affect, which in turn has a major impact on life evaluations.”

Table 9: World Happiness Report | Scores for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean

Rank	Country	Score	Rank	Country	Score
4	Costa Rica	7.439	51	Nicaragua	6.301
12	Mexico	6.972	57	Paraguay	6.198
27	Belize	6.711	59	Ecuador	6.144
31	Uruguay	6.635	63	Honduras	6.096
32	Brazil	6.634	64	Dominican Republic	6.093
37	El Salvador	6.578	68	Colombia	6.040
39	Panama	6.547	72	Peru	5.974
42	Guatemala	6.533	76	Trinidad and Tobago	5.905
44	Argentina	6.430	78	Bolivia	5.835
49	Jamaica	6.305	80	Venezuela	5.756
50	Chile	6.302			

3.6 Edelman Trust Barometer 2026

Scope

Now in its 26th year, the Edelman Trust Barometer is the best-known global survey of trust in institutions. The 2026 edition, titled *Trust Amid Insularity*, surveyed 33,938 people in 28 countries between October 25 and November 16, 2025. Four countries from the region are in the sample, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico, with around 1,200 respondents each and a margin of error of ±3.7 points. The survey is conducted online and, as Edelman itself cautions, in countries with lower internet penetration the sample "tends to be younger, more urban and more affluent."

Key findings

Globally, the Trust Index rose from 56 to 57. Trust grew in every institution (employer 78, business 64, media 54, government 53) except NGOs, which remained at 58 and are "trusted" (60 points or more) in 12 of the 28 countries. According to the survey, 70% of people worldwide have an "insular trust mindset," that is, they are hesitant or unwilling to trust people who are different from them.

Mexico remains the country in the region where NGOs are most trusted (62, the only score in the "trust" range and the 10th highest among the 28 countries), followed by Brazil (58), Argentina (54) and Colombia (50, 22nd of 28). Brazil shows the largest gain in the region on the overall index (+5 points, from 51 to 56), with statistically significant increases in trust in government (+6) and media (+6). Government is "distrusted" in all four countries; Colombia (34) has the fourth-lowest score in the world. Business is "trusted" in Brazil, Mexico and Colombia.

Argentina and Colombia (77%) are among the seven most insular of the 28 countries surveyed, and Brazil has the second-highest share of people who consider distrust between groups a "major or crisis-level" problem (58%, behind only Indonesia). In Mexico, 29% believe the next generation will be better off, a drop of 9 points in one year. Asked how a distrusted foreign company could earn local trust, 48% of people cite investment in long-term community projects and 27% cite donations to community organizations.

Table 10: Edelman | Scores in trust in four countries in Latin America and the Caribbean

Indicator	Global (28)	Argentina	Brazil	Colombia	Mexico
Trust Index 2026 (2025)	57 (56)	50 (48)	56 (51)	49 (49)	57 (57)
Trust in NGOs (Change vs. 2025)	58 (0)	54 (0)	58 (+2)	50 (−2)	62 (+1)
Trust in business	64	57	67	65	66
Trust in government	53	47	45	34	43
Trust in media	54	44	52	45	57
Insular mindset (% hesitant or unwilling)	70	77	72	77	72
Next generation will be better off	32	45	30	39	29

3.7 Drivers of Trust in Public Institutions

Scope

The OECD published the first regional edition of its survey on trust in public institutions, the first exercise of the OECD Global Trust Survey Project outside its member countries. The survey covers ten countries: Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico, surveyed between September and December 2023 in the OECD global round, and Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay and Peru, surveyed between May and June 2025.

Key findings

In the region, 35% of people trust their national government (OECD: 39%) and 48% have low or no trust. The armed forces are the most trusted institution (55%, in the six countries surveyed in 2025), followed by the police (44%; OECD 63%), civil society organizations (around 42%, in seven countries) and the media (42%; OECD 39%). Below them come the electoral system (39%), local governments (37%; OECD 45%), the courts (36%; OECD 54%), the national civil service (32%; OECD 45%), parliament (27%; OECD 37%) and political parties (19%; OECD 24%). The survey does not include questions on giving or generosity.

Half of Latin Americans (50%) trust most people, compared with 62% on average in the OECD, “with very little variation across countries”; the report notes that in the region “interpersonal trust has historically been low.”

On participation, 51% feel able to take part in politics (OECD: 40%), but only 25% believe that “people like me have a say in what the government does” (OECD: 30%); among those who feel they have a say, 66% trust the national government, compared with 21% among those who do not.

In the previous twelve months, 17% volunteered for social or environmental causes (OECD: around 14%), 16% took part in public consultations and 11% in protests.

3.8 CIVICUS Monitor: People Power Under Attack 2025

Scope

The CIVICUS Monitor is a research partnership between the global alliance CIVICUS and more than 20 partner organizations that assesses the state of the freedoms of association, peaceful assembly and expression in 198 countries and territories. Each country receives a score from 0 to 100 and a rating in one of five categories: open, narrowed, obstructed, repressed or closed. The annual report *People Power Under Attack 2025* covers the period from November 1, 2024 to October 31, 2025, during which 3,120 violations of civic freedoms were documented worldwide.

Key findings

According to the regional factsheet published by CIVICUS, "civic space is undergoing a rapid and widespread regression in the Americas, with nearly 90% of the region's population now living in obstructed, repressed or closed civic space conditions." Of the 35 countries in the region (including the United States and Canada), three are rated closed, seven repressed, six obstructed, nine narrowed and ten open.

In continental Latin America, only Uruguay maintains open civic space. The best ratings in the region are found in the English-speaking Caribbean. In 2025, three countries in the Americas were downgraded: Argentina and the United States (from narrowed to obstructed) and El Salvador (from obstructed to repressed).

The five most frequent violations in the Americas in 2025 were attacks on journalists, intimidation of journalists, detention of human rights defenders, killings of defenders and excessive use of force at protests. The Americas also remain the deadliest region in the world for human rights defenders, with killings documented in at least nine countries. Colombia is described as "the epicenter of this crisis," with around 200 killings between January and October 2025, according to Indepaz. Mexico, for its part, is "the deadliest place for journalists outside a war zone." Argentina's downgrade is attributed to a "sharp" deterioration since December 2023. In March 2025, for example, the crackdown on a pensioners' protest in Buenos Aires left around 700 people injured.

The report also records new restrictions on civil society organizations. In El Salvador, a Foreign Agents Law took effect immediately, imposing a 30% tax on funds from abroad, fines of US$100,000 to US$250,000 and the possible cancellation of legal registration. As a result, "established human rights organizations and journalists' associations have closed or been forced to relocate their operations abroad."

Elsewhere in the region, similar laws were proposed in Ecuador and Paraguay. In Peru, Congress expanded the oversight powers of the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation (APCI), and in Venezuela, the government gained the power to dissolve organizations. Ecuador and Peru are flagged as "countries of concern."

Chile stands out as a "bright spot." In October 2025, its Chamber of Deputies approved a bill to protect environmental defenders, in line with the Escazú Agreement.

Table 11: Civicus Monitor | Ratings for civic space in countries in Latin America and the Caribbean

2025 rating	Latin American and Caribbean countries (score 0 to 100)
Open	Barbados 90, Saint Kitts and Nevis 90, Grenada 89, Bahamas 88, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 88, Jamaica 84, Trinidad and Tobago 84, Uruguay 84, Saint Lucia 81
Narrowed	Suriname 80, Belize 79, Costa Rica 78, Chile 76, Dominican Republic 74, Panama 73, Antigua and Barbuda 71, Guyana 71, Dominica 70
Obstructed	Argentina 59 ▾, Brazil 55, Paraguay 52, Bolivia 50, Ecuador 47
Repressed	Colombia 40, Guatemala 40, Mexico 40, Peru 40, Honduras 38, El Salvador 35 ▾, Haiti 34
Closed	Venezuela 14, Cuba 13, Nicaragua 5

▾ = downgraded in 2025.



4. What We Know:
Country Factsheets

In the 2025 edition, we presented for the first time a factsheet for each of the 33 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the data available on generosity and philanthropy in each one.

In this edition for each country, we reproduce the data published in 2025 and, alongside it, the 2026 update whenever a new edition of the source was published during the period.

Countries from Latin America are presented individually, and the Caribbean countries are shown in one unified table, due to the lack of available data, something we hope changes in the future. The exceptions are the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico[2].

2 While Puerto Rico is an unincorporated territory of the United States, it is treated here as part of Latin America and the Caribbean, reflecting its geographic position, language, culture and its role in the regional GivingTuesday movement.

Argentina

Argentina is home to organizations dedicated to strengthening the philanthropic environment, such as AEDROS, GDFE, RACI and CIS at Universidad de San Andrés, and a local GivingTuesday movement, Un Día para Dar Argentina, led by Pura Vida. There are no consistent data on the number of civil society organizations in the country.

Population (UNPD)
45,851,378

Main language (WF)
Spanish

Philanthropic development score (GPEI)
2.6

In 2025, the CIVICUS Monitor downgraded Argentina's civic space rating from "narrowed" to "obstructed", citing the enforcement of an "anti-picketing" protocol, arbitrary detentions and excessive use of force at protests. In the Edelman Trust Barometer 2026, the country's Trust Index rose from 48 to 50, and trust in NGOs remained at 54.

Indicator (Source)	2025 edition	2026 update
Civic space (CIVICUS)	Narrowed	Obstructed (59) ▾
Remittances received (IFAD / IDB)	No data	US$916 million, less than 1% of GDP; −13.4% in 2025
World Happiness Report rank (WHR)	No data	44th (6.430)
Trust in NGOs (TB)	Neutral (54)	Neutral (54)
Total donors - % of population (WGR)	51%	47%
Total donations - % of income (WGR)	0.60%	0.6%
% population who donate to charity (WGR)	23%	25%
% population who volunteer (WGR)	18%	21%
Average hours volunteered per person (WGR)	6.2	N/A

Belize

Located on the Caribbean coast of Central America, Belize is the least populous country on the isthmus and the only one where English is the official language, with Spanish and Belizean Kriol also widely spoken. A member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), it combines Central American and Caribbean identities. It is also one of the countries in the region about which least is known when it comes to giving: none of the global generosity surveys covers it.

Population (UNPD)
422,924

Main language (WF)
English

Indicator (Source)	2025 edition	2026 update
Civic space (CIVICUS)	Narrowed	Narrowed (79)
Remittances received (IFAD / IDB)	No data	US$124 million, 4% of GDP; +1.9% in 2025
World Happiness Report rank (WHR)	No data	27th (6.711)



Bolivia

An Andean nation and one of South America's two landlocked countries, Bolivia defines itself constitutionally as a Plurinational State. Alongside Spanish, it recognizes 36 Indigenous languages as official, among them Quechua, Aymara and Guarani. It has one of the lowest philanthropic development score in Latin America on the GPEI (1.89) and the lowest level of community belonging among the 17 countries in the region covered by the World Giving Report (43%).

Population (UNPD)
12,581,843

Main language (WF)
Spanish

Philanthropic development score (GPEI)
1.89

Indicator (Source)	2025 edition	2026 update
Civic space (CIVICUS)	Obstructed	Obstructed (50)
Remittances received (IFAD / IDB)	No data	US$1.27 billion, 2% of GDP; −0.5% in 2025
World Happiness Report rank (WHR)	No data	78th (5.835)
Total donors - % of population (WGR)	54%	46%
Total donations - % of income (WGR)	0.72%	0.6%
% population who donate to charity (WGR)	20%	19%
% population who volunteer (WGR)	29%	29%
Average hours volunteered per person (WGR)	8.5	N/A

Brazil

Brazil is one of the few countries in the region with official data on the nonprofit sector: the Mapa das OSCs (Map of Civil Society Organizations), published by the Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), is updated almost every year. Private organizations also map local philanthropy: IDIS publishes the Pesquisa Doação Brasil (Brazil Giving Survey), Instituto Pensi publishes o "Retrato da Solidariedade" (The portrait of solidarity) and GIFE, the association of social investors, publishes the Censo GIFE (GIFE Census) every two years. Brazil's GivingTuesday movement, Dia de Doar, has been led since 2025 by the Movimento por uma Cultura de Doação (Movement for a Culture of Giving).

Population (UNPD)
212,812,405

Main language (WF)
Portuguese

Philanthropic development score (GPEI)
3.38

Number of CSOs (IPEA)
917,727

CSO employees (IPEA)
2,690,837

Civil society as % of GDP (FIPE)
4.37%

During the period covered by this report, Brazil was the country in the region with the most new data. It was the only Latin American or Caribbean country included in the Global Philanthropy Tracker 2026, with US$24 million in cross-border philanthropy in 2023. In the OECD study on private philanthropy for development, it received US$180 million for government and civil society and US$0.14 billion for environmental protection between 2020 and 2023 (the world's 3rd largest recipient in that sector), and the domestic philanthropy captured amounted to US$39.2 million, from 12 Brazilian organizations in

the sample, a figure the OECD considers "likely higher" in reality; Brazil accounted for 95% of transactions and around 85.6% of the value analyzed by the Online Giving Radar. In the State of Generosity 2025, 77.0% of Brazilians were generous in some way in 2025, the lowest participation among the seven countries surveyed.

Portrait of Solidarity: Prosocial Behavior in Brazil (Instituto Pensi) . The Retrato da Solidariedade is a national public opinion survey on how Brazilians "help others", how they give money, items, blood, organs or time, conducted by the Laboratory of Prosocial Behavior and Public Policy at Instituto PENSI, the research arm of Fundação José Luiz Egydio Setúbal. According to its authors, it is the only annual household survey on prosocial behavior in Brazil, and it now spans three editions, with data from 2023, 2024 and 2025, and more than 7,500 face-to-face household interviews. All datasets, questionnaires and codebooks are publicly available, in Portuguese and English, in the OSF repository.

The edition with 2024 data captured the impact of the floods in Rio Grande do Sul: more than a quarter of Brazil's adult population supported the victims through organizations (27% donated items, 11% donated money, 3% volunteered), and, for 96 of the 842 donors interviewed, helping Rio Grande do Sul was the first donation of their lives. The result was a jump in financial donations to organizations, from 27% to 32% of the population, and in the amount given, which grew 43% in real terms. The following edition answered the question of what happens to solidarity when the emergency leaves the headlines: "The answer we found is a settling, not a setback", the authors write.

In 2025, 55.5% of Brazilian adults gave money, items or time to civil society organizations. All changes compared with 2024 are within the margin of error, but they point downward, and volunteering is the only indicator that declined across all three editions. The volume of financial donations to organizations fell 15%, to R$21.1 billion (0.17% of GDP), still 22% above 2023, "which characterizes the ebb of an emergency peak". The decline was

concentrated among lower-income and less-educated households, those most exposed to the record levels of debt that marked the year, while giving rose in the higher brackets: among those earning more than 20 minimum wages, the share of money donors rose 11 points, to 47%. The South region expanded its donor base (43%, the highest in the country) and saw recurring giving rise to 13%, "a sign that the experience of helping during the catastrophe may have taken root".

Private social investment. Two surveys published in the period converge on about R$5.8 billion a year for the institutionalized core of Brazilian philanthropy. The Censo GIFE 2024-2025 (138 organizations, 84% of GIFE members) recorded R$5.8 billion in 2024, the second-highest value in the series after the pandemic year of 2020; corporate institutes and foundations account for 55%, grants to civil society organizations reached a record R$1.3 billion (22% of the total), and emergency support jumped to R$786 million after the Rio Grande do Sul floods. The BISC 2026 (Comunitas, 25 business groups) recorded R$5.76 billion in 2025, a real decline of 11.3% from the 2024 peak, concentrated in direct corporate contributions; education receives 38% of the resources and 119,951 employees took part in corporate volunteering.

Other findings from the three editions:

Giving in everyday life

Seven in ten Brazilians (70%) say they never talk about donations to organizations (up from 62% in 2023), and 67% say they are not asked to contribute. Among people earning more than 20 minimum wages, 54% were not approached by any organization in 2025. Among those who are approached, telemarketing is the most annoying channel (66%).

Planning

86% of donors decide the amount on the spot. Recurring donors, who keep a scheduled payment to the same organization, make up 8% of the population, and their contribution fell from R$8.7 billion (2023) to R$7 billion (2025). According to the authors, “what the numbers sketch is a reactive generosity, one that responds to requests, campaigns and emergencies, and that, for that very reason, needs to be activated”.

Income

In every year, lower-income groups give a larger share of their income to organizations: around 2% among those earning up to two minimum wages, compared with less than 1% at the top.

Education

Controlling for other factors, the probability of giving money ranges from 22% among those with up to primary education to 46% among those with higher education; the probability of volunteering, from 10% to 23%. The gap between men and women in giving money practically disappears in the models, but women donate more items (53% versus 42%).

Pix

In two years, Pix went from 29% to 41% of donations, tying with cash (41%) and surpassing it in large cities and among higher-income groups. The authors note that Pix extends the reach of campaigns but makes it harder to reconnect with the donor.

Trust

35% trust civil society organizations (26% trust international ones), compared with 45% for religious institutions and 19% for government. Among reasons for not giving, “lack of resources” is growing (36%) and “the resources will not be used well” remains second (21%); among high earners who have never given, distrust is the top reason (32%). When choosing an organization, the cause (27%) comes first, followed by transparency (14%) and impact (14%). The most supported causes continue to be fighting hunger, social assistance and health, and 64% of donors support organizations working locally.

Climate

92% of Brazilians believe the climate is changing and 47% say they are very worried; 2% donated to environmental organizations in 2025.

Religious donations

The 2025 edition estimated for the first time the volume of contributions to churches, temples, terreiros and Spiritist centers: **around R$24.5 billion in 2025 (0.19% of GDP)**, “a figure now of the same order of magnitude as what goes to CSOs”. Taken together, donations to organizations and to religious causes exceed R$45 billion, or 0.36% of GDP.

Indicator (Source)	2025 edition	2026 update
Civic space (CIVICUS)	Obstructed	Obstructed (55)
Trust in NGOs (TB)	Neutral (56)	Neutral (58)
Cross-border philanthropy sent (GPT)	No data	US$24 million (2023)
Domestic philanthropy for development captured (OECD)	No data	US$39.2 million (2020 to 2023)
Private social investment, GIFE members (GIFE)	No data	R$5.8 billion (2024)
Corporate social investment, BISC Network (BISC)	No data	R$5.76 billion (2025)
Remittances received (IFAD / IDB)	No data	US$4.76 billion, less than 1% of GDP; −0.5% in 2025
World Happiness Report rank (WHR)	No data	32nd (6.634)
Trust most people / the national government (OECD-T)	No data	55% / 38% (2025)
Total donors - % of population (WGR)	61%	59%
Total donations - % of income (WGR)	0.93%	0.9%
% population who gave money, items or time (GTDC)	39% gave in all three ways	77.0% gave in some way
% population who donate to charity (WGR)	27%	28%
% population who donate to charity (IDIS)	43% (2024)	No update
% population who donate money to CSOs (PENSI)	No data	30% (2025)
Individual donations to CSOs (IDIS)	R$24.3 billion (2024)	No update
Individual donations to CSOs (PENSI)	No data	R$21.1 billion (2025)
% population who volunteer (WGR)	22%	19%
% population who volunteer with CSOs (PENSI)	No data	14% (2025)
Average hours volunteered per person (WGR)	8	N/A

Chile

Chile is home to one of the few research centers in the region dedicated to philanthropy, the Centro de Filantropía e Inversiones Sociales (CEFIS) at Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, which published the second edition of the Barómetro de la Filantropía en Chile (Philanthropy Barometer in Chile) in 2025 and will host the 15th ISTR Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean in July 2027. In October 2025, the Chamber of Deputies approved the bill to protect environmental human rights defenders, highlighted by the CIVICUS Monitor as a “bright spot” in the region.

Population (UNPD)
19,859,921

Main language (WF)
Spanish

Philanthropic development score (GPEI)
4.06

Indicator (Source)	2025 edition	2026 update
Civic space (CIVICUS)	Narrowed	Narrowed (76)
Remittances received (IDB)	No data	+0.1% in Q1 2026
World Happiness Report rank (WHR)	No data	50th (6.302)
Trust most people / the national government (OECD-T)	No data	51% / 30% (2023)
Total donors - % of population (WGR)	67%	64%
Total donations - % of income (WGR)	0.60%	0.6%
% population who donate to charity (WGR)	46%	44%
% population who volunteer (WGR)	20%	19%
Average hours volunteered per person (WGR)	4.5	N/A

Colombia

The Agencia Presidencial de Cooperación Internacional de Colombia (APC Colombia) published a report on donations from US donors to Colombian organizations between 2015 and 2025, one of the few available sources on philanthropy in the country, and, in 2026, its Estrategia de Filantropía (Philanthropy Strategy), described below. The country has an active GivingTuesday movement, *Un Día para Dar Colombia*.

In the OECD study on private philanthropy for development, Colombia is the world's 5th largest recipient, with US$1.9 billion between 2020 and 2023, almost all of it cross-border; the domestic philanthropy captured amounted to US$22.2 million, from five organizations in the sample. The country is also the largest recipient of environmental ODA (US$1.1 billion). In 2025, Indepaz recorded around 200 killings of human rights defenders in the country between January and October, according to the CIVICUS Monitor.

Estrategia de Filantropía (APC Colombia). In 2026, APC Colombia published its **Estrategia de Filantropía**, a ten-year document (2025 to 2034) that makes attracting international philanthropy a public cooperation policy. To our knowledge, this is the first time a national government in Latin America and the Caribbean has drawn up a strategy dedicated to philanthropy.



Population (UNPD)
53,425,635



Main language (WF)
Spanish



Philanthropic development score (GPEI)
3.94



Donations received from the United States, 2015-2025 (APC)
US$ 362,618,372

Diagnosis. Colombia captures **0.04% of the global philanthropic market**. Between 2015 and 2015, the country received US$362.6 million from 289 US organizations (Candid data), around ten times less than the official aid received over the same period. Of the total, 80.5% of resources came from a few large donors (Ford, Buffett and Conrad N. Hilton), **and more than 80% of transactions happened only once**: "many 'prospects', but few 'donors'", as the document puts it. There are 111,501 registered nonprofit organizations in the country, of which 19,506 are under the Special Tax Regime, and around 500 (2.56%) have a fiscal sponsor (fiscal sponsor) that allows them to receive tax-deductible donations from other countries. The document states that the Colombian fundraising ecosystem "is quite immature compared with Latin American markets such as Argentina's". Among its strategic assets, it highlights a diaspora of 5.2 million Colombians, remittances of around US$13.1 billion (2% of GDP) and 6.7 million foreign visitors per year.

The strategy. Building on an alliance between government, civil society organizations and philanthropic entities, the goal is for Colombia to access **0.5% of the global philanthropic market within ten years**. The strategy is organized around two pillars:

Tools

Training on international fiscal sponsorship and a "fiscal sponsors office" at APC; **giving circles**, in partnership with Philanthropy Together; tourism-based philanthropy, with the Ministry of Trade and ProColombia; and diaspora philanthropy.

Governance and alliances

Linking organizations to the working groups of the National System of International Cooperation; a support process that takes organizations from first contact to a presence on a national philanthropy platform; a national Equipo Asesor (Advisory Team), yet to be formalized, with support from the Ford Foundation; and departmental committees, with pilots in Risaralda, Atlántico, Tolima, Antioquia, Buenaventura and Bogotá.

The timeline foresees, in the first three years, a national philanthropy platform in at least three languages, campaigns aimed at tourists and the diaspora, and promotional tours in the United States, Switzerland and Germany; between years 3 and 6, a review of local tax incentives (currently a deduction of 25% of the amount donated from income tax); and, between years 6 and 9, partnerships with emerging philanthropies and an evaluation of the strategy. Five agendas are prioritized: feminist cooperation, nature and climate, an ethnic approach, peacebuilding, and response to migration crises. Among the results already recorded, 50 organizations were trained in giving circles at the end of 2025, and 27 organizations accessed fiscal sponsorship for the first time on the first GivingTuesday focused on Colombia.

The document includes no budget, interim targets or legal basis of its own (it is an institutional APC document, not a CONPES or a law), and it lists its own continuity among the main risks. Nor does it provide data on individual giving by Colombians, volunteering or corporate philanthropy.

Indicator (Source)	2025 edition	2026 update
Civic space (CIVICUS)	Repressed	Repressed (40)
Trust in NGOs (TB)	Neutral (52)	Neutral (50)
Philanthropy for development received (OECD)	No data	US$1.9 billion (2020 to 2023)
Remittances received (IFAD / IDB)	No data	US$13.1 billion, 3% of GDP; +10.6% in 2025
World Happiness Report rank (WHR)	No data	68th (6.040)
Trust most people / the national government (OECD-T)	No data	54% / 32% (2023)
Total donors - % of population (WGR)	53%	54%
Total donations - % of income (WGR)	0.84%	0.9%
% population who donate to charity (WGR)	18%	21%
% population who volunteer (WGR)	28%	26%
Average hours volunteered per person (WGR)	6.3	N/A

Costa Rica

Costa Rica abolished its armed forces in 1948 and is one of the most stable countries in Central America. In 2026, it reached 4th place in the World Happiness Report, the highest ranking ever achieved by a Latin American country. On giving, however, it falls below the regional average in community belonging (45%), one of the indicators the World Giving Report associates with generosity.

Population (UNPD)
5,152,950

Main language (WF)
Spanish

Indicator (Source)	2025 edition	2026 update
Civic space (CIVICUS)	Narrowed	Narrowed (78)
Remittances received (IDB)	No data	+19.6% in 2025
World Happiness Report rank (WHR)	No data	4th (7.439), the best rank ever achieved by a country in the region
Trust most people / the national government (OECD-T)	No data	43% / 35% (2023)
Total donors - % of population (WGR)	61%	57%
Total donations - % of income (WGR)	0.84%	0.7%
% population who donate to charity (WGR)	28%	25%
% population who volunteer (WGR)	28%	24%
Average hours volunteered per person (WGR)	6.3	N/A



Ecuador

In 2025, the CIVICUS Monitor named Ecuador a “country of concern”, noting the advance of bills that expand requirements and restrictions on civil society organizations and the use of lethal force against Indigenous protests in September and October 2025.

Population (UNPD)
18,289,896

Main language (WF)
Spanish

Companies with philanthropic activities
Less than 10%

Indicator (Source)	2025 edition	2026 update
Civic space (CIVICUS)	Obstructed	Obstructed (47)
Remittances received (IFAD / IDB)	No data	US$7.73 billion, 6% of GDP; +18.2% in 2025
World Happiness Report rank (WHR)	No data	59th (6.144)
Trust most people / the national government (OECD-T)	No data	52% / 50% (2025)
Total donors - % of population (WGR)	52%	41%
Total donations - % of income (WGR)	0.81%	0.7%
% population who donate to charity (WGR)	20%	13%
% population who volunteer (WGR)	30%	26%
Average hours volunteered per person (WGR)	9.1	N/A

El Salvador

In 2025, the CIVICUS Monitor downgraded El Salvador's civic space rating from "obstructed" to "repressed", following the adoption of a Foreign Agents Law that imposes a 30% tax on funds from abroad, fines of US$100,000 to US$250,000 and the possibility of revoking organizations' legal registration. According to the report, "established human rights organisations and journalist associations have closed or been forced to relocate their operations abroad".

Population (UNPD)
6,365,503

Main language (WF)
Spanish

Philanthropic development score (GPEI)
2.83

Indicator (Source)	2025 edition	2026 update
Civic space (CIVICUS)	Obstructed	Repressed (35) ▾
Remittances received (IFAD / IDB)	No data	US$10.1 billion, 28% of GDP; +17.8% in 2025
World Happiness Report rank (WHR)	No data	37th (6.578)
Total donors - % of population (WGR)	51%	47%
Total donations - % of income (WGR)	1.17%	0.9%
% population who donate to charity (WGR)	17%	11%
% population who volunteer (WGR)	30%	28%
Average hours volunteered per person (WGR)	5.8	N/A

Guatemala

Central America's most populous country, with about 18.7 million inhabitants, Guatemala has one of the largest Indigenous populations in the region. In addition to Spanish, it recognizes more than twenty Mayan languages. Remittances equal 19% of GDP and nearly tripled over the decade. The GivingTuesday movement arrived in the country in 2025, and Focus Central America, a Guatemala-based organization, sits on the Advisory Council of the GivingTuesday LAC Hub.

Population (UNPD)
18,687,881

Main language (WF)
Spanish

Indicator (Source)	2025 edition	2026 update
Civic space (CIVICUS)	Repressed	Repressed (40)
Remittances received (IFAD / IDB)	No data	US$21.6 billion, 19% of GDP; +18.7% in 2025
World Happiness Report rank (WHR)	No data	42nd (6.533)
Trust most people / the national government (OECD-T)	No data	53% / 27% (2025)
Total donors - % of population (WGR)	46%	51%
Total donations - % of income (WGR)	0.84%	0.8%
% population who donate to charity (WGR)	17%	22%
% population who volunteer (WGR)	25%	19%

Guyana

The only English-speaking country in South America, Guyana is a member of CARICOM and has historical and cultural ties closer to the Caribbean than to its continental neighbors. It has about 836,000 inhabitants, and since the end of the last decade it has been going through a rapid economic expansion driven by oil production. Like Belize and Suriname, it does not appear in any of the global generosity surveys.

Population (UNPD)
835,986

Main language (WF)
English

Indicator (Source)	2025 edition	2026 update
Civic space (CIVICUS)	Narrowed	Narrowed (71)
Remittances received (IDB)	No data	+9.2% in Q1 2026

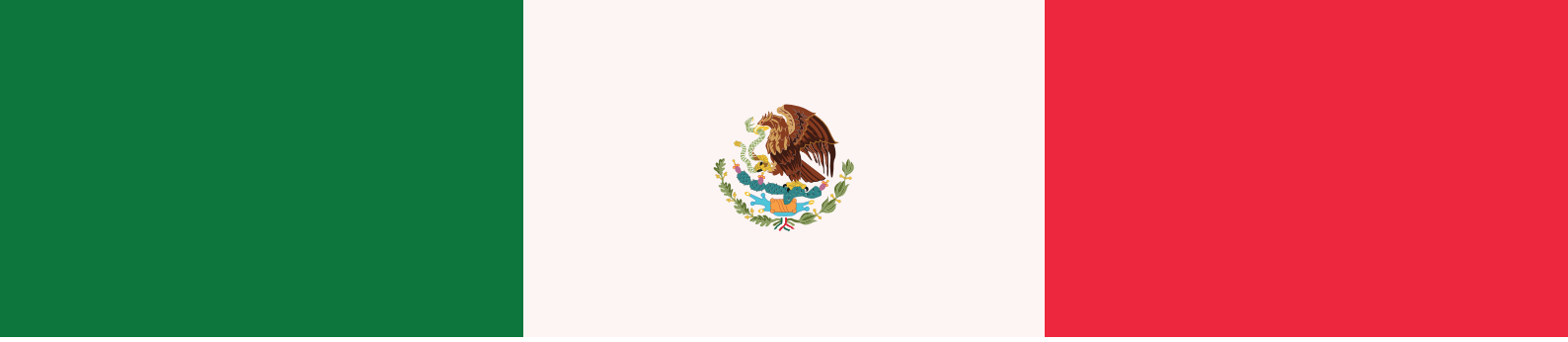
Honduras

Honduras is the most remittance-dependent country in the region: remittances equal 30% of GDP and 86% of exports. For the second year running, it is also the Latin American country with the highest share of income donated in the World Giving Report. It is the only one to reach the global average of 1.0% in 2026, and it has the highest trust in charitable organizations among the 17 countries surveyed (7.8 out of 10).

Population (UNPD)
11,005,850

Main language (WF)
Spanish

Indicator (Source)	2025 edition	2026 update
Civic space (CIVICUS)	Repressed	Repressed (38)
Remittances received (IFAD / IDB)	No data	US$11.9 billion, 30% of GDP (highest dependence in the region); +27.1% in 2025
World Happiness Report rank (WHR)	No data	63rd (6.096)
Total donors - % of population (WGR)	66%	54%
Total donations - % of income (WGR)	1.38%	1.0%
% population who donate to charity (WGR)	34%	19%
% population who volunteer (WGR)	27%	31%
Average hours volunteered per person (WGR)	9.8	N/A



Mexico

Like Brazil, Mexico has a well-established tradition of studying local philanthropy. The Centro Mexicano para la Filantropía (CEMEFI), with around 1,600 members, publishes the Compendio Estadístico del Sector no Lucrativo (Statistical Compendium of the Nonprofit Sector) every two years; the Centro de Investigación y Estudios sobre Sociedad Civil (CIESC) has published three editions of Generosidad en México (Generosity in Mexico); and Redecim leads the *Un Día* para *Dar México* movement.

During the period, Mexico was excluded from the Global Philanthropy Tracker 2026 due to a lack of updated data on cross-border philanthropy. In the OECD study on private philanthropy for development, Mexico is the world's 3rd largest recipient (US$3.3 billion between 2020 and 2023), 88% of it domestic philanthropy (US$2.9 billion); the OECD country study records US$3.4 billion disbursed by the 328 largest domestic organizations during the period, more than US$670 million of it by Fundación Carlos Slim.

Population (UNPD)
131,946,900

Main language (WF)
Spanish

Philanthropic development score (GPEI)
3.24

Number of CSOs (CEMEFI)
66,205

CSO employees (CEMEFI)
801,821

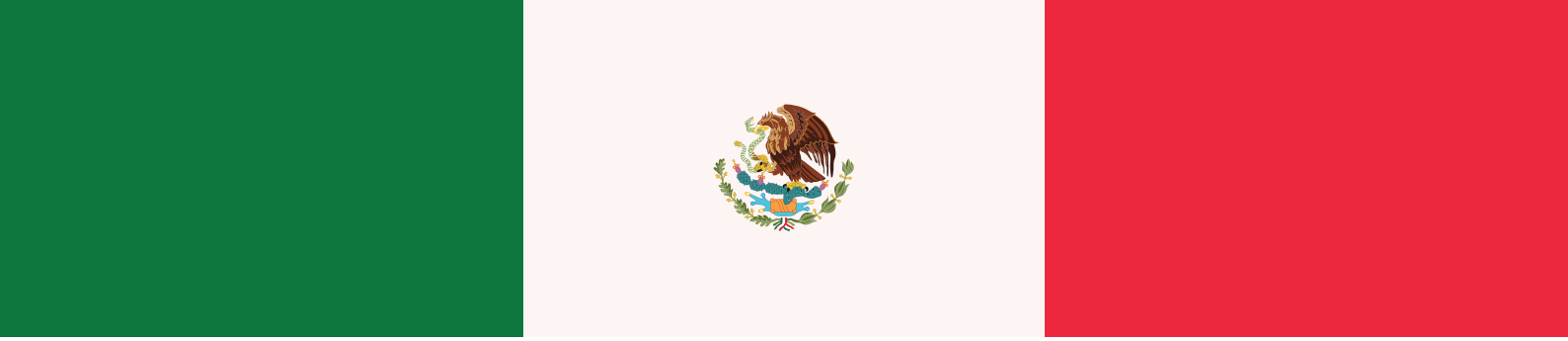
CSO volunteers (CEMEFI)
2,338,336

CSOs per 100,000 population (USAID)
46

Donations to CSOs (CEMEFI)
MXN 56,172,497,756

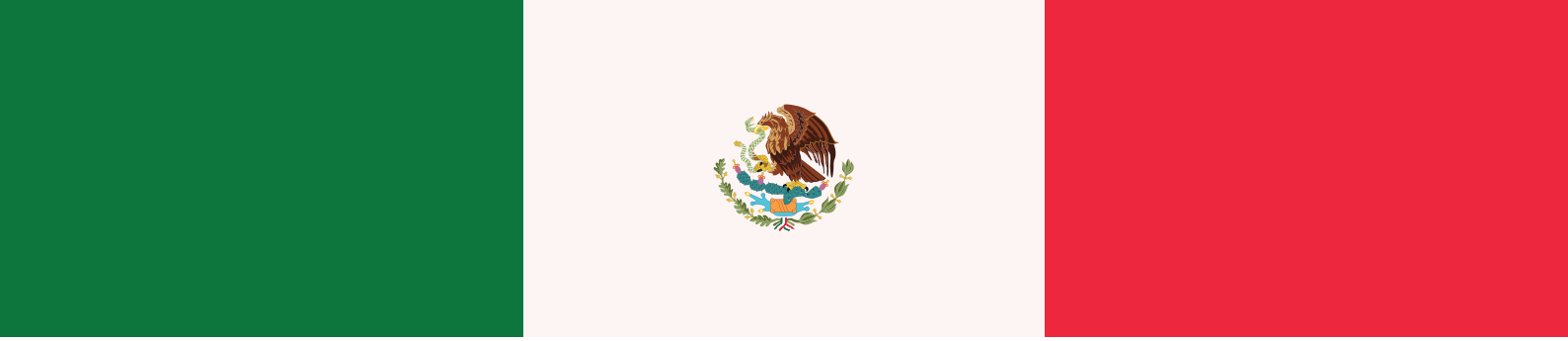
Average donation (CIESC)
MXN 1,341

Civil society as % of GDP (CEMEFI)
1.48%



In the State of Generosity 2025, Mexico recorded, alongside the United States, the largest increase in overall generosity participation among the seven countries surveyed (+4.2 points, to 83.1%), with 48.0% giving money, 72.4% giving items and 51.4% volunteering. In the Edelman Trust Barometer 2026, Mexico remains the country in the region with the highest trust in NGOs (62). The Mexican chapter of the WGR Charity Insights (Cemefi, 171 organizations) shows that 71% cite financial sustainability as their main challenge and 59% consider the government's influence on the sector negative. In 2026, the OECD published the revised edition of *Private Philanthropy for Development in Mexico*.

In November 2025, INEGI released the Cuenta Satélite de las Instituciones Sin Fines de Lucro 2024 (Satellite Account of Nonprofit Institutions): the GDP of the nonprofit sector totaled MXN 1.046 trillion, **3.3% of Mexico's GDP** (1.4 points from public institutions, 0.8 from private institutions and 1.1 from the economic value of volunteer work), with real growth of 5.7% in 2024, compared with 1.3% for the economy as a whole; the sector accounted for 3,317,622 jobs (8.4% of the total), of which 1,683,501 were paid and 1,634,121 were held by volunteers; by function, education and research (39.8%), religion (17.0%) and development and housing (16.4%) account for most of the sector's GDP. Mexico is also the largest recipient of remittances in the region and the second largest in the world: US$64.4 billion according to IFAD, 38% of the regional total; in 2025, according to the IDB, remittances to the country fell 3.9%, to US$62.5 billion, the only decline among the subregions.



Indicator (Source)	2025 edition	2026 update
Civic space (CIVICUS)	Repressed	Repressed (40)
Trust in NGOs (TB)	Trust (61)	Trust (62)
Philanthropy for development received (OECD)	No data	US$3.3 billion (2020 to 2023), 88% domestic
Nonprofit sector GDP, % of GDP (INEGI)	No data	3.3% (2024)
Jobs in the nonprofit sector (INEGI)	No data	3,317,622, of which 1,634,121 volunteers (2024)
Remittances received (IFAD / IDB)	No data	US$64.4 billion, 4% of GDP; −3.9% in 2025
World Happiness Report rank (WHR)	No data	12th (6.972)
Trust most people / the national government (OECD-T)	No data	57% / 54% (2023)
Total donors - % of population (WGR)	53%	52%
Total donations - % of income (WGR)	0.89%	0.9%
% population who gave money, items or time (GTDC)	39% gave in all three ways	83.1% gave in some way
% population who make monetary donations (CIESC)	23%	No update
% population who donate to charity (WGR)	26%	23%
% population who volunteer (WGR)	24%	24%
% population who volunteer (CIESC)	20%	No update
Average hours volunteered per person (WGR)	4.4	N/A

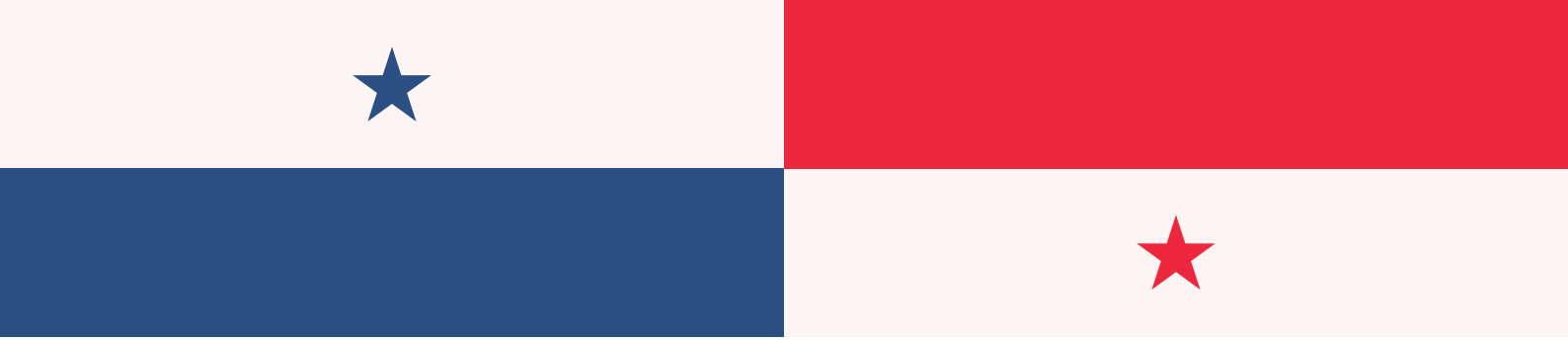
Nicaragua

Central America's largest country by area, Nicaragua has had its civic space rated "closed" by the CIVICUS Monitor since 2021. Its score of 5 out of 100 is the lowest in the Americas. Remittances account for 27% of GDP and more than quadrupled over the decade. In the World Giving Report 2026, the country has the lowest share of donors (39%) and the lowest rate of giving to organizations (9%) in the region.

Population (UNPD)
7,007,502

Main language (WF)
Spanish

Indicator (Source)	2025 edition	2026 update
Civic space (CIVICUS)	Closed	Closed (5)
Remittances received (IFAD / IDB)	No data	US$5.25 billion, 27% of GDP; +18.2% in 2025
World Happiness Report rank (WHR)	No data	51st (6.301)
Total donors - % of population (WGR)	38%	39%
Total donations - % of income (WGR)	0.52%	0.7%
% population who donate to charity (WGR)	7%	9%
% population who volunteer (WGR)	28%	25%
Average hours volunteered per person (WGR)	5.5	N/A



Panama

Linking Central and South America, Panama has a dollarized economy and one of the highest GDPs per capita in the region. It is the Latin American country with the highest volunteering rate in the World Giving Report 2026 (32% of the population), and it gained a local GivingTuesday movement in 2025.

Population (UNPD)
4,571,189

Main language (WF)
Spanish

Indicator (Source)	2025 edition	2026 update
Civic space (CIVICUS)	Narrowed	Narrowed (73)
Remittances received (IDB)	No data	+20.0% in 2025
World Happiness Report rank (WHR)	No data	39th (6.547)
Total donors - % of population (WGR)	64%	53%
Total donations - % of income (WGR)	0.81%	0.7%
% population who donate to charity (WGR)	32%	25%
% population who volunteer (WGR)	38%	32%
Average hours volunteered per person (WGR)	9.4	N/A

Paraguay

Paraguay was included in the World Giving Report for the first time in the 2026 edition. In 2025, the CIVICUS Monitor recorded a proposed "foreign agents" law in the country. A landlocked country, Paraguay is the most bilingual nation in the region: Guarani is an official language alongside Spanish and is spoken by most of the population. Among the region's 17 countries in the World Giving Report, it has the second-highest level of community belonging (64%), behind only Brazil.

Population (UNPD)
7,013,078

Main language (WF)
Spanish

Indicator (Source)	2025 edition	2026 update
Civic space (CIVICUS)	Obstructed	Obstructed (52)
Remittances received (IFAD / IDB)	No data	US$1.53 billion, 3% of GDP; +34.3% in 2025
World Happiness Report rank (WHR)	No data	57th (6.198)
Trust most people / the national government (OECD-T)	No data	39% / 27% (2025)
Total donors - % of population (WGR)	No data	52%
Total donations - % of income (WGR)	No data	0.7%
% population who donate to charity (WGR)	No data	23%
% population who volunteer (WGR)	No data	29%

Peru

In 2025, the CIVICUS Monitor named Peru a “country of concern,” citing the expanded oversight powers of the Peruvian International Cooperation Agency (APCI) over civil society organizations and the use of lethal force against protests. In the OECD study on private philanthropy for development, Peru is the world’s 4th largest recipient, with US$3.0 billion between 2020 and 2023, all of it cross-border, and it received around US$90 million in gender-focused funding; no Peruvian organization is part of the study’s sample.

Population (UNPD)
34,576,665

Main language (WF)
Spanish

Philanthropic development score (GPEI)
2.89

Number of CSOs (UP)
30,000

Indicator (Source)	2025 edition	2026 update
Civic space (CIVICUS)	Repressed	Repressed (40)
Philanthropy for development received (OECD)	No data	US$3.0 billion (2020 to 2023)
Remittances received (IFAD / IDB)	No data	US$5.30 billion, 2% of GDP; +4.3% in Q1 2026
World Happiness Report rank (WHR)	No data	72nd (5.974)
Trust most people / the national government (OECD-T)	No data	52% / 20% (2025)
Total donors - % of population (WGR)	54%	48%
Total donations - % of income (WGR)	0.78%	0.8%
% population who donate to charity (WGR)	20%	19%
% population who volunteer (WGR)	27%	29%
Average hours volunteered per person (WGR)	6.3	N/A



Suriname

South America's smallest country by population, with about 640,000 inhabitants, Suriname has Dutch as its official language. Its multiethnic society is made up of descendants of Africans, Indians, Javanese, Chinese and Europeans, along with Indigenous peoples. A member of CARICOM, it is covered only by the CIVICUS Monitor and IFAD remittance data.

Population (UNPD)
639,850

Main language (WF)
Dutch

Indicator (Source)	2025 edition	2026 update
Civic space (CIVICUS)	Narrowed	Narrowed (80)
Remittances received (IFAD)	No data	US$176 million, 4% of GDP

Uruguay

With about 3.4 million inhabitants, Uruguay is the only country in continental Latin America whose civic space is rated “open” by the CIVICUS Monitor. It also has one of the best philanthropic environments in the region on the GPEI (3.86). On giving, it sits at the other end of the scale. Among the region’s 17 countries in the World Giving Report 2026, it has the lowest share of income donated (0.4%), the lowest volunteering rate (16%) and the lowest rate of religious giving (4%).

Population (UNPD)
3,384,688

Main language (WF)
Spanish

Philanthropic development score (GPEI)
3.86

Indicator (Source)	2025 edition	2026 update
Civic space (CIVICUS)	Open	Open (84)
Remittances received (IDB)	No data	+5.3% in Q1 2026
World Happiness Report rank (WHR)	No data	31st (6.635)
Total donors - % of population (WGR)	54%	44%
Total donations - % of income (WGR)	0.59%	0.4%
% population who donate to charity (WGR)	35%	30%
% population who volunteer (WGR)	17%	16%
Average hours volunteered per person (WGR)	6.2	N/A



Venezuela

In 2025, the CIVICUS Monitor reported that the Venezuelan government gained the legal power to dissolve civil society organizations, alongside at least 44 arbitrary detentions of activists between January and August 2025 and the cancellation of at least 40 passports belonging to human rights defenders and journalists. Over the past decade, Venezuela has seen the largest population displacement in the region. According to IFAD, most Venezuelans who left the country have stayed in Latin America, mainly in Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Chile and Ecuador. The country is not covered by the World Giving Report or by remittance data. Its life evaluation score in the World Happiness Report has fallen by more than one point since 2006–2010.

Population (UNPD)
28,516,896

Main language (WF)
Spanish

Philanthropic development score (GPEI)
1.83

Indicator (Source)	2025 edition	2026 update
Civic space (CIVICUS)	Closed	Closed (14)
World Happiness Report rank (WHR)	No data	80th (5.756); lost more than one point compared with 2006-2010

The Caribbean

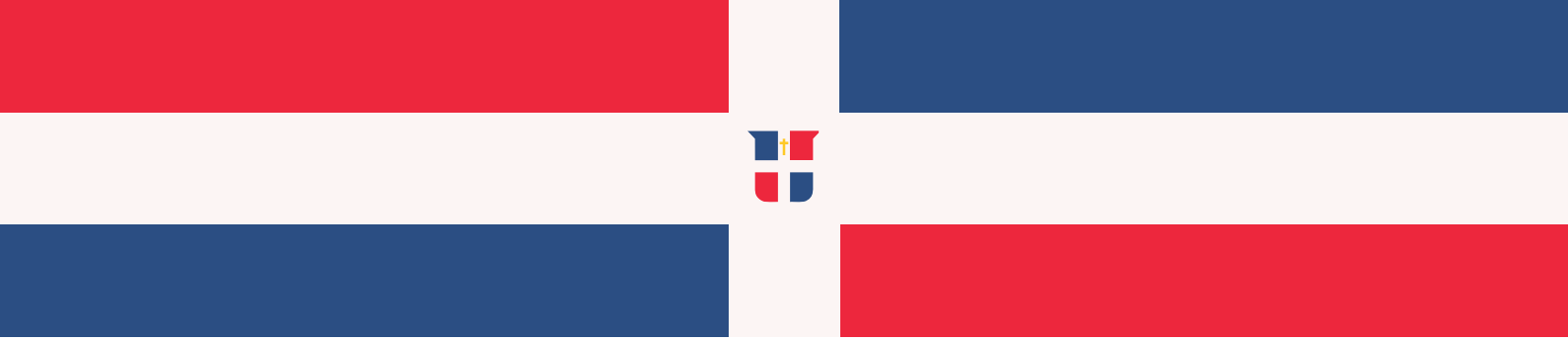
As in the 2025 edition, Caribbean countries are covered almost exclusively by the CIVICUS Monitor. In 2025, all of them kept their civic space rating. Apart from the Dominican Republic, none of them appears in the World Giving Report, the Edelman Trust Barometer, the State of Generosity or the Global Philanthropy Tracker. Nor does any Caribbean country appear in the figures of the OECD study on private philanthropy for development, which does not separate the Caribbean and Central America from the rest of the region.

Remittances remain a major source of external flows. According to IFAD, the Caribbean received US$20.3 billion in 2025, an increase of 97% over the decade. The IDB reports a rise of 10.8% in 2025 alone. Haiti received US$4.1 billion, equivalent to 17% of its GDP and more than eight times the value of its exports, with growth of 22.2% in 2025. Jamaica followed with US$3.6 billion (16% of GDP, up 3.8%), while Trinidad and Tobago recorded growth of 3.1%.

In the World Happiness Report 2026, Jamaica ranks 49th (6.305) and Trinidad and Tobago 76th (5.905). The other Caribbean countries are not ranked.

Finally, the Online Giving Radar recorded donations from or to almost every country and territory in the Caribbean. The exceptions were Cuba and Dominica, which show no outgoing donations, and Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago, which received no donations from abroad.

Country	Population (UNPD)	Main language (WF)	Philanthropic development score (GPEI)	Civic space 2025 (CIVICUS)
Antigua and Barbuda	94,209	English	N/A	Narrowed
Bahamas	403,033	English	3.71	Open
Barbados	282,623	English	3.28	Open
Cuba	10,937,203	Spanish	N/A	Closed
Dominica	65,871	English	N/A	Narrowed
Grenada	117,303	English	N/A	Open
Haiti	11,906,095	Creole	N/A	Repressed
Jamaica	2,837,077	English	3.9	Open
Saint Kitts and Nevis	46,922	English	N/A	Open
Saint Lucia	180,149	English	N/A	Open
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	99,924	English	N/A	Open
Trinidad and Tobago	1,511,155	English	N/A	Open



Dominican Republic

The Dominican philanthropic infrastructure includes Alianza ONG, a network of nonprofit organizations, and the government agency Centro Nacional de Fomento y Promoción de las Asociaciones Sin Fines de Lucro (National Center for the Promotion of Nonprofit Associations). The local GivingTuesday movement, *Un Día para Dar RD*, led by AFS, recently completed a mapping of the country's philanthropic actors, with support from the WINGS Philanthropy Transformation Initiative.

Population (UNPD)
11,520,487

Main language (WF)
Spanish

Number of CSOs (CASFL)
8,825

Indicator (Source)	2025 edition	2026 update
Civic space (CIVICUS)	Narrowed	Narrowed (74)
Remittances received (IFAD / IDB)	No data	US$12.4 billion, 10% of GDP; +9.3% in 2025
World Happiness Report rank (WHR)	No data	64th (6.093)
Trust most people / the national government (OECD-T)	No data	45% / 39% (2025)
Total donors - % of population (WGR)	54%	41%
Total donations - % of income (WGR)	1.17%	0.9%
% population who donate to charity (WGR)	24%	13%
% population who volunteer (WGR)	30%	26%



Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico is not one of the 33 countries covered in this report: it is an unincorporated territory of the United States, with about 3.2 million inhabitants and Spanish and English as official languages. The GivingTuesday LAC Hub nevertheless includes the island in its scope, because of its cultural ties to Latin America and because it has an active GivingTuesday movement, #GivingTuesday Puerto Rico (#GTPR), established in 2017. The global sources used in this report (World Giving Report, CIVICUS Monitor, World Happiness Report, IFAD, OECD) do not report Puerto Rico separately from the United States, so the island does not appear in any of the regional tables of Part 2. The 2024 edition of this report summarised the study Giving in Puerto Rico (Flamboyan Foundation, Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and Kinesis Foundation, 2018), based on a 2014 household survey:

Population (U.S. Census Bureau)
About 3.2 million

Main languages
Spanish and English

GivingTuesday
Since 2017

75% of households had given to charity, more than 70% had given informally (to a neighbour or directly to a stranger) and 39% had volunteered.

One new source was published in the period covered by this edition, by the Escuela Graduada de Administración Pública, of the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras campus: the first official statistical report on generosity in Puerto Rico.

Indicator (Source)	2026
Donations deducted on individual income tax returns (IEPR)	US$329.8 million (2023)
Taxpayers claiming a deduction for donations (IEPR)	99,180 (2023), 8.0% of returns filed
Average donation deducted per claimant (IEPR, Hub calculation)	US$3,326 (2023)



5. Who Produces Knowledge: the Emerging Generosity Data Ecosystem

A growing network of organizations and research centers, both in the region and internationally, is working not only on civil society topics but, increasingly, on producing knowledge about philanthropy and generosity.

Recognizing this work and giving these organizations visibility matters, both for those who want to get involved or offer support and for anyone looking to learn more.

The map below highlights key organizations whose contributions go beyond their own specific research and enrich the shared pool of knowledge presented above. They take different forms: universities and academic centers, independent research centers, mission-driven organizations that also conduct research, and membership organizations. Many combine more than one of these roles. Alongside them are several international organizations which contribute significantly to shared knowledge through active work and partnerships in the region.



Mexico

CEMEFI

A network of foundations, companies and nonprofits that publishes a biennial statistical compendium of the Mexican nonprofit sector and partners on civil society research and monitoring.

cemefi.org

CIESC

An independent research center with publications on generosity, volunteering and civil society.

ciesc.org.mx

Argentina

CIS

A social innovation center at **Universidad de San Andrés**, offering training and research on nonprofits, philanthropy and corporate social responsibility.

udesa.edu.ar/cis

RACI

A network of civil society organizations that produces research and guides on local and international funding for the sector.

raci.org.ar

Jamaica

CariPhil

The philanthropic alliance, created to mobilize philanthropy for sustainable development in the Caribbean, with a strong focus on climate philanthropy.

cariphilalliance.org

Puerto Rico

Filantropía

A collective in Puerto Rico serving and expanding philanthropy through a data-driven strategy, shared knowledge, and collective action.

Colombia

Territoria

The national support organization for Colombia's territorial foundations, engaging in research on community philanthropy and giving circles.

territoriacolombia.org

Brazil

GIFE

The association of Brazilian private social investors (institutes, foundations and companies), publisher of the biennial Censo GIFE.

gife.org.br

Instituto Pensi

The research arm of the José Luiz Egydio Setúbal Foundation, whose Prosocial Behavior Lab publishes Retrato da Solidariedade, an annual household survey on giving and volunteering with open data.

institutopensi.org.br

IDIS

An organization that supports strategic social investment and publishes the *Pesquisa Doação Brasil*, the national survey on individual giving.

idis.org.br

Comunitas

A civil society organization that brings business and government together, publisher of **BISC**, the annual benchmark of corporate social investment in Brazil since 2008.

comunitas.org

Chile

CEFIS

A research center at **Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez**, publisher of the *Barómetro de la Filantropía en Chile*.

cefis.uai.cl

Global

Wings

A worldwide network of philanthropy support organizations and funders working to strengthen philanthropy's infrastructure and enabling environment.

wingsweb.org

ISTR

An international membership association of academic researchers on civil society and philanthropy, whose Latin America and Caribbean regional network has been active since 1996.

istr.org



6. Conclusion:
What the Evidence Points To

In the first edition of this report, in 2024, we concluded that data on generosity and philanthropy in Latin America and the Caribbean were "profoundly scarce." In the second edition, in 2025, we proposed that generosity in the region follows relationships more than resources: it flows through direct rather than institutional channels, and the most prosperous countries give proportionally less, a "wealth-generosity paradox."

The past year confirms these readings and adds a further one: generosity here is not only widespread but responsive. It is activated by context, whether an invitation, a crisis or a moment such as GivingTuesday. In organizations, it is built through deliberate decisions, not passed down by default.

If generosity responds to the conditions around it, the question changes. It is less whether people in the region are generous than whether they are asked to give, whether their giving is counted, and whether the environment enables it.

These conditions do not line up in the same way everywhere. As we said in 2025, "there is no single LAC story," and Brazil and Mexico show how much that matters. Three independent sources (the WGR, the State of Generosity and the Retrato da Solidariedade) recorded a slight decline in Brazilian generosity in 2025. Mexico, by contrast, saw one of the largest gains among the seven State of Generosity countries and maintains the highest trust in NGOs in the region. The conclusions that follow take each condition in turn, and are best read with that variation in mind.

Who is asked to give

South America has the lowest share of donors of any continent, and those who give donate a smaller share of their income (World Giving Report 2026). This suggests a cycle that needs breaking: people give little where little is asked, and giving is rarely talked about or celebrated. Brazil's Retrato da Solidariedade illustrates the pattern: 70% of Brazilians never talk about donations, and 67% are never asked to give, including more than half of the wealthiest.

Yet when people are asked, they respond. Generosity is reactive, and it can be activated: GivingTuesday is already the most generous day of the year on the platforms analyzed by the Online Giving Radar, with five times the amount of a typical day, and the floods in Brazil produced the largest peak in giving ever measured in the country, followed by a "settling." Campaigns and emergencies mobilize people; the challenge is to turn that impulse into habit.

Turning impulse into habit depends on who does the asking, and that depends on trust. Trust in civil society organizations is high in the region, comparable to that in developed economies (Edelman), with 42% of Latin Americans trusting them, more than courts, parliaments or parties (OECD). Trust in other people is lower: only half of Latin Americans trust most people, and only one in four feels that people like them have a say in public decisions. Invitations to give may therefore travel mostly within groups, and the evidence on insularity points the same way: Argentina and Colombia are among the seven countries in the world most reluctant to trust people who are different, and Brazil has the second highest perception that distrust between groups has reached "crisis level." In a region where generosity is relational, building bridges between groups is also a strategy for growing giving, and for widening who is asked.

Whose giving is counted

Being asked is only part of the picture, because much of what people already give goes uncounted. Remittances, the region's largest private flow, grew 132% over the decade, the fastest growth in the world, and in Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua they are equivalent to more than a quarter of GDP. In Brazil, religious contributions (R$24.5 billion) match donations to organizations, and 57% of Brazilians give goods. Together with diaspora philanthropy, these circuits escape most measurement, in part because they move outside the formal channels that most data systems are built to see.

Invisibility is also a matter of coverage, and it persists in key research initiatives. The Global Philanthropy Tracker covers a single country in the region and left out Chile and Mexico for lack of data. The OECD's study of private philanthropy for development fares little better: it includes only 18 organizations from the region outside Mexico, and two thirds of the US$7.8 billion it records as received by the region are microfinance loans from a single foundation. The World Giving Report, for its part, does not publish national data for the whole region and covers the Caribbean only through the Dominican Republic, while the two most robust national surveys on individual giving are Brazilian.

As a result, we know a good deal about four or five of the 33 countries and little about the rest, and for most Caribbean countries the only new data this year are the CIVICUS Monitor rating and, where available, remittances. Giving that goes unseen is harder to ask for, to enable and to protect.

7. What’s next?

At the GivingTuesday LAC Hub, the work continues. A second edition of the Online Giving Radar will deepen our understanding of how people give online, and new research on collective giving in the Andean region will explore how communities give together. We believe research is most useful when it leads to action. Across the region, giving rises with moments: a natural disaster, a neighborhood celebration, GivingTuesday itself. The work now is to carry those moments beyond the peak, turning bursts of generosity into habits, habits into culture, and culture into identity.

What each of us can do

Nonprofits and fundraisers



Reimagine the ask: how it is made, and who makes it. In a region where generosity is relational, an invitation from the right person is often what turns goodwill into a donation, and an ask that feels personal and well-timed is what builds lasting donor loyalty.

Governments



Approach philanthropy as a strategic area of interest, and recognize what is in your hands: creating the conditions that enable others to give generously and to innovate in resource mobilization. Use statistics to bring generosity into view and to measure progress more clearly.

Funders



Invest in the infrastructure that makes giving easier (platforms, tools and knowledge). Backing everyday giving and grassroots givers unlocks more resources for the whole sector, and so does recognizing the informal circuits of generosity that already sustain so much of it.

Researches



Much generosity still goes unseen, and making the invisible visible is a shared task. There is room to widen what we measure and where, from monetary flows to religious giving, in-kind giving, remittances and diaspora philanthropy, and to build closer partnerships between researchers and practitioners so that evidence reaches those who can act on it.

The media



The everyday story of giving is waiting to be told. Coverage that goes beyond emergencies, to the data, the organizations and the people who give all year round, helps make generosity part of our cultural identity.



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