We harness the power of philanthropy to help communities prepare for and withstand disasters. We’re focused on bridging the humanitarian and climate sectors to support communities of resilience.

**CLIMATE RESILIENCE**
We fund organizations and movements fighting for climate justice in the U.S. and Caribbean. There can be no climate justice without racial and social justice and our grants under this pillar are focused on collective action to fight for systems and policy change that will build a more equitable future for all.

**CLIMATE JUSTICE**
We fund organizations and movements fighting for climate justice in the U.S. and Caribbean. There can be no climate justice without racial and social justice and our grants under this pillar are focused on collective action to fight for systems and policy change that will build a more equitable future for all.

**LEGACY PROJECTS**
Our work in Barbados remains a core pillar for us - from climate resilience work with local schools and health clinics to our new scholarship program launching in 2022 to the ongoing partnership with our very first partner in 2012 - the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

**WHO WE ARE**
The Clara Lionel Foundation (CLF) was founded in 2012 by Robyn “Rihanna” Fenty in honor of her grandparents, Clara and Lionel Braithwaite. CLF invests in climate justice initiatives in the Caribbean and United States and helps communities prepare for and withstand natural disasters.

We focus on combating climate change’s effects on the most marginalized communities by supporting climate resilience and climate justice projects.

We invest in partners who are climate resilience and justice leaders in their own communities. Over 95% of our partners are entities focused on and led by women, youth, Black, Indigenous, People of Color and LGBTQIA+ communities.

We advocate for policy and systems change to ensure our grantmaking ladders up to substantive systems change.

We take an intersectional approach to grantmaking, working with the lens that categories like gender, race, and class are best understood as overlapping rather than isolated. Our grantmaking tackles multiple social inequalities whenever possible.

claralionelfoundation.org
In partnership with health clinics, hospitals and Ministries of Health we are strengthening the response capacity and hardening the existing infrastructure of health care facilities across multiple Caribbean countries. This work was first piloted in partnership with Profamily, a system of reproductive health clinics in the Dominican Republic and Belize, and Fòs Feminista, the international alliance for sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice.

Our Climate Resilience Initiative (CRI) is focused on addressing multiple dimensions of emergency preparedness while scaling solutions to ensure access to critical services in the face of climate change. Our projects, which range from infrastructure hardening projects to gender-integrated emergency response planning in the Caribbean, serve as models that can be replicated and scaled to enable other high-risk regions around the world to be better prepared to withstand extreme weather events.

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Within each pillar, we are creating various open-source materials such as guidelines, suggested best practices and lessons learned. We’re also identifying key policy and advocacy opportunities in the Caribbean to ensure that we’re supporting the sustainable access to critical services and development of resilient systems to complement our work on the ground.

In August 2021, after a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti, we determined there was a need for support to be given to Haitian-led organizations that were responding, but also were engaged in long-term work within the CRI Pillars and affected communities.

In 2021, we reached 580K+ people in 7 Caribbean countries through CRI:

- Barbados
- Belize
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Trinidad

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We work with schools designated as shelters in the Caribbean to ensure buildings are renovated to survive category five storms and receive resilience upgrades such as renewable energy systems. Currently, we are impacting over 1,700 students in Barbados and Dominica through this work.

We invest philanthropic dollars across three key strategic pillars and add new projects within each area annually:

01 **Health**

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02 **Shelter**

We work with schools designated as shelters in the Caribbean to ensure buildings are renovated to survive category five storms and receive resilience upgrades such as renewable energy systems. Currently, we are impacting over 1,700 students in Barbados and Dominica through this work.

03 **Communications**

Ensuring the strength and sustainability of local information ecosystems and communications equipment is critical to building resilient communities. In 2021, we completed a landscaping report to assess opportunities and gaps within emergency communications in the Caribbean and gave grants to equip local media outlets in Barbados with the tools and skills they need to promote reliable, trusted and relevant information during emergencies. We’re also supporting the development of a regional knowledge portal for the University of the West Indies (UWI)’s Caribbean Resilience and Recovery Knowledge Network as well as UWI’s disaster recovery and resilience research collaboration with the University of California’s Institute of the Environment and Sustainability.

While CRI is focused on emergency preparedness and long-term investments in climate resilience we will engage in emergency response to natural disasters in the U.S. and Caribbean if there is an acute need.

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Complementary to our resilience work, our climate justice work is rooted in the reality that climate disasters, which are growing in frequency and intensity, do not impact all communities equally. Under-resourced countries, communities of color, and island nations are facing the brunt of these challenges. To combat this inequity, we are building partnerships with organizations working on the frontlines of the climate justice movement in the U.S. and Caribbean.

**GRANTS IN 2022**

$15 MILLION TO 18 ORGANIZATIONS

**ABOUT THE GRANTS**

These grants are supporting entities focused on and led by women, youth, Black, Indigenous, People of Color and LGBTQIA+ communities. Our partners are a powerful group of climate justice leaders and organizers from seven Caribbean countries and nearly all 50 states. They are relentless doers and innovators who are responding to climate change with a deep understanding of what is necessary to achieve climate justice in their own communities.

**CARIBBEAN PARTNERS**

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
BARBADOS
DOMINICA
JAMAICA
ST. KITTS & NEVIS
ST. LUCIA
ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

**UNITED STATES PARTNERS**

ALASKA
CALIFORNIA
LOUISIANA
MINNESOTA
NEW YORK
SOUTH DAKOTA
WASHINGTON D.C.
Our legacy projects pillar is focused on our work in our Founder’s home country of Barbados. Since CLF’s founding, the foundation’s support has grown to include supporting local schools and nonprofits with funding for youth development projects and academic programs, a scholarship program for Barbadian students and various climate resilience initiatives.

LEGACY CURRENTLY SUPPORTS

3K+ STUDENTS

FOUNDED IN 2012

CLF’s inaugural project, the founding of the Clara Braithwaite Center for Oncology and Nuclear Medicine at Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) took place in Barbados. Today, we are continuing to work with QEH on the sustainability of the Center as well as climate resilience projects.

AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY & PLENIPOTENTIARY FOR BARBADOS

For the first time in more than 20 years, Barbados bestowed the honor of National Hero and title of The Right Excellent to Robyn Rihanna Fenty during a ceremony that marked the first day of the Barbadian republic.

The National Hero Award is an honor that is given to individuals whose contributions have altered the course of the history of Barbados.