# The Foundation Center



**Leading source of information about philanthropy worldwide**

- Information on more than **104,000** global foundations, corporate donors, and grantmaking public charities

- Database of **4.6 million** grants

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# The Foundation Center

**Aim to enhance grantmaker and nonprofit effectiveness through shared information and understanding**

- Research reports and advisories on giving trends
- Mapping tools
- Custom, issue-based portals
    - Economic crisis, U.S. education, funding after the Haiti earthquake



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# It starts with Open Data…

In regard to U.S.-based philanthropy, our datasets originate from tax forms that foundations submit to the U.S. government.

The government, in turn, makes the completed forms available to the public.



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# … but the data requires curation.

**Data extraction**
Occasionally requires optical character recognition (OCR)

**Data coding**
- Internal subject taxonomy includes 1,100 codes.
- Recipient type
- Population codes
- Location of recipients as well as location of projects



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# This curation might require ~60,000 hours of labor* each year.

The Foundation Center employs **over 120** people, around **30** of whom are exclusively dedicated to the gathering, cleaning, coding, entry, and analysis of data.



*\* this is a very rough estimate, based on a 2,000-hour work-year and assumes no fluctuation in job tasks and staffing levels*

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# Free vs. Fee

## For a fee

- *Detailed* data from any/all of our databases.

## For free

- *Aggregated or trend* data (by region or by general category)

- *Limited* data -- small, detailed datasets focusing on a single region or single category





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# Providing free, open data

## Aggregated data

U.S. foundation assets **increased** across the board in 1997.



An API exists for this data.

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# Providing free, open data

## Aggregated data

U.S. foundation assets **decreased** across the board in 2008



An API exists for this data.

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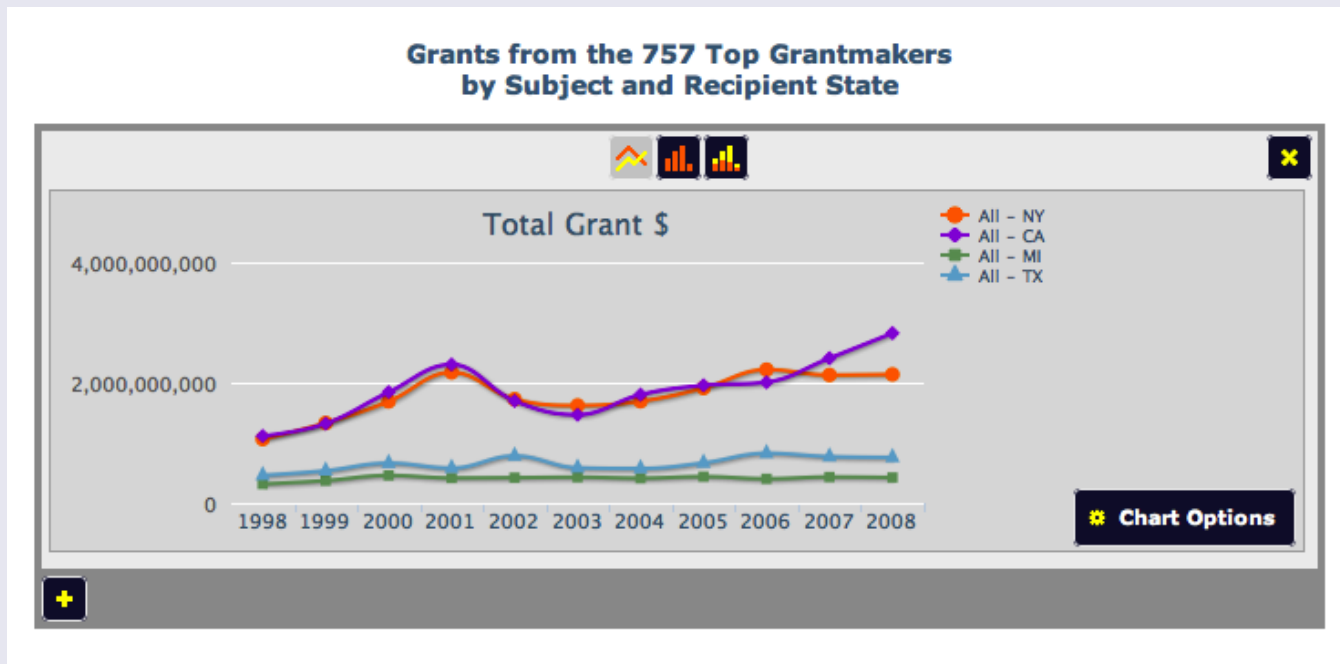
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# Providing free, open data

## Aggregated data
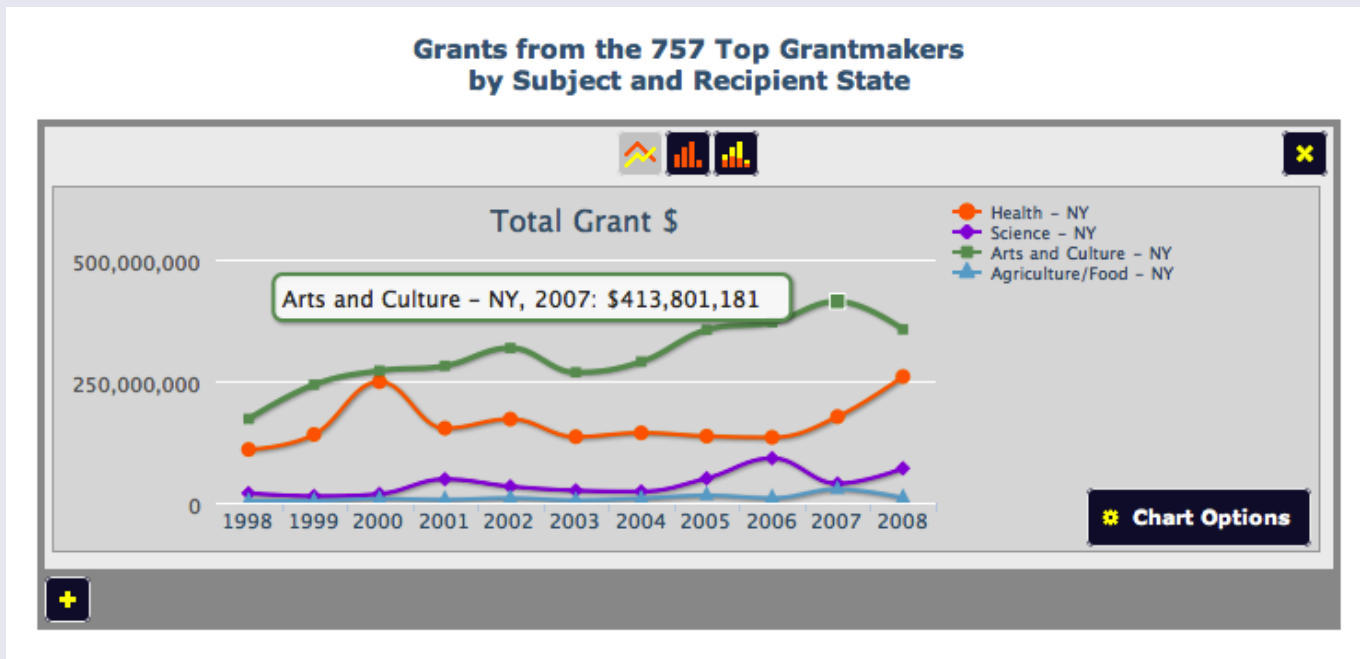Comparing trends among grant recipients **per state**.



An API exists for this data.

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# Providing free, open data

## Aggregated data

Comparing trends among grant recipients **by subject**.



Grants from the 757 Top Grantmakers by Subject and Recipient State

An API exists for this data.

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# Providing free, open data

## Specific regions/topics

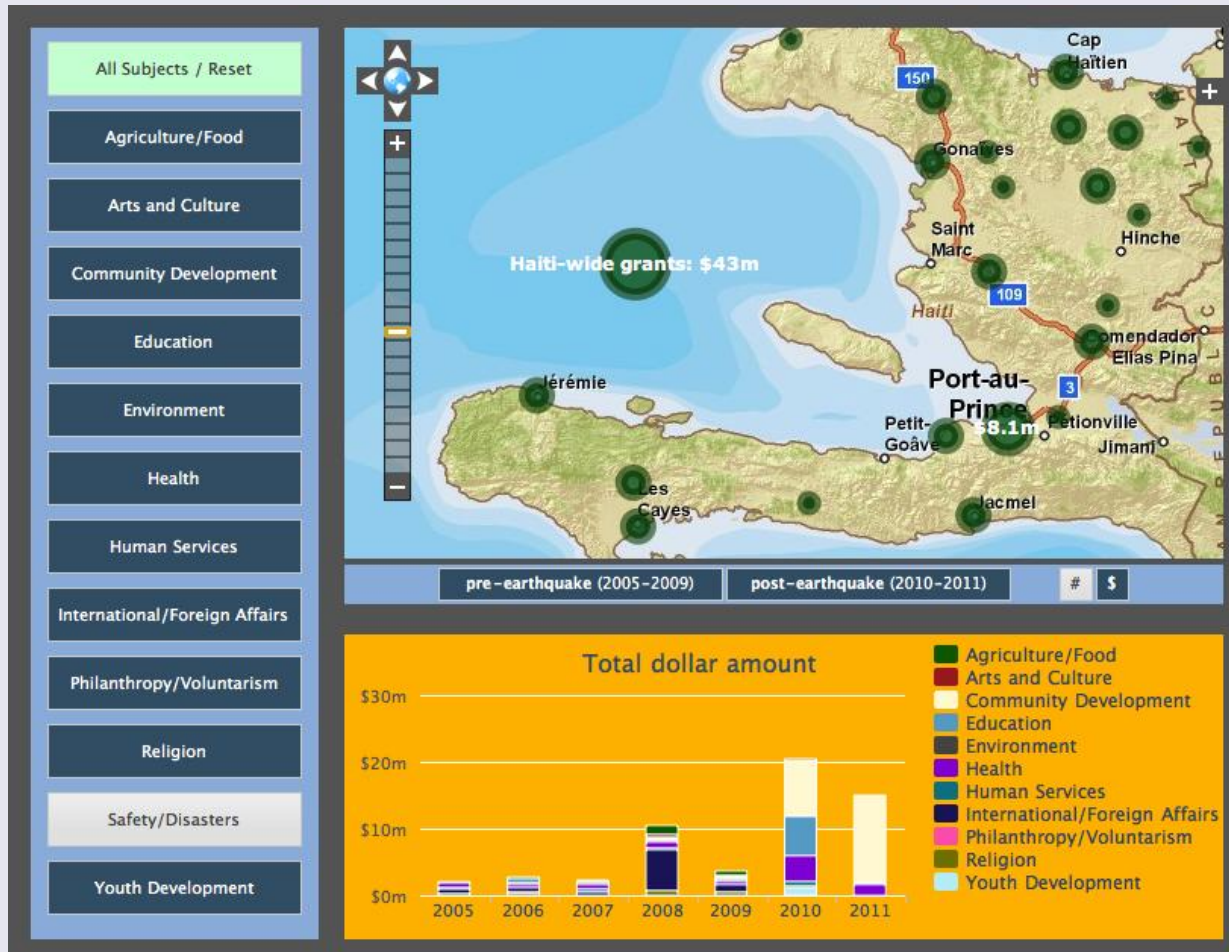Number of grants intended for projects in Haiti, 2005 to 2011



[foundationcenter.org/haiti](foundationcenter.org/haiti)

An API exists for this data.

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# Providing free, open data



**Specific regions/topics:** Haiti, grant $, each subject

(**not including** funding for Safety/Disasters)

foundationcenter.org/haiti
An API exists for this data.

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# Providing free, open data
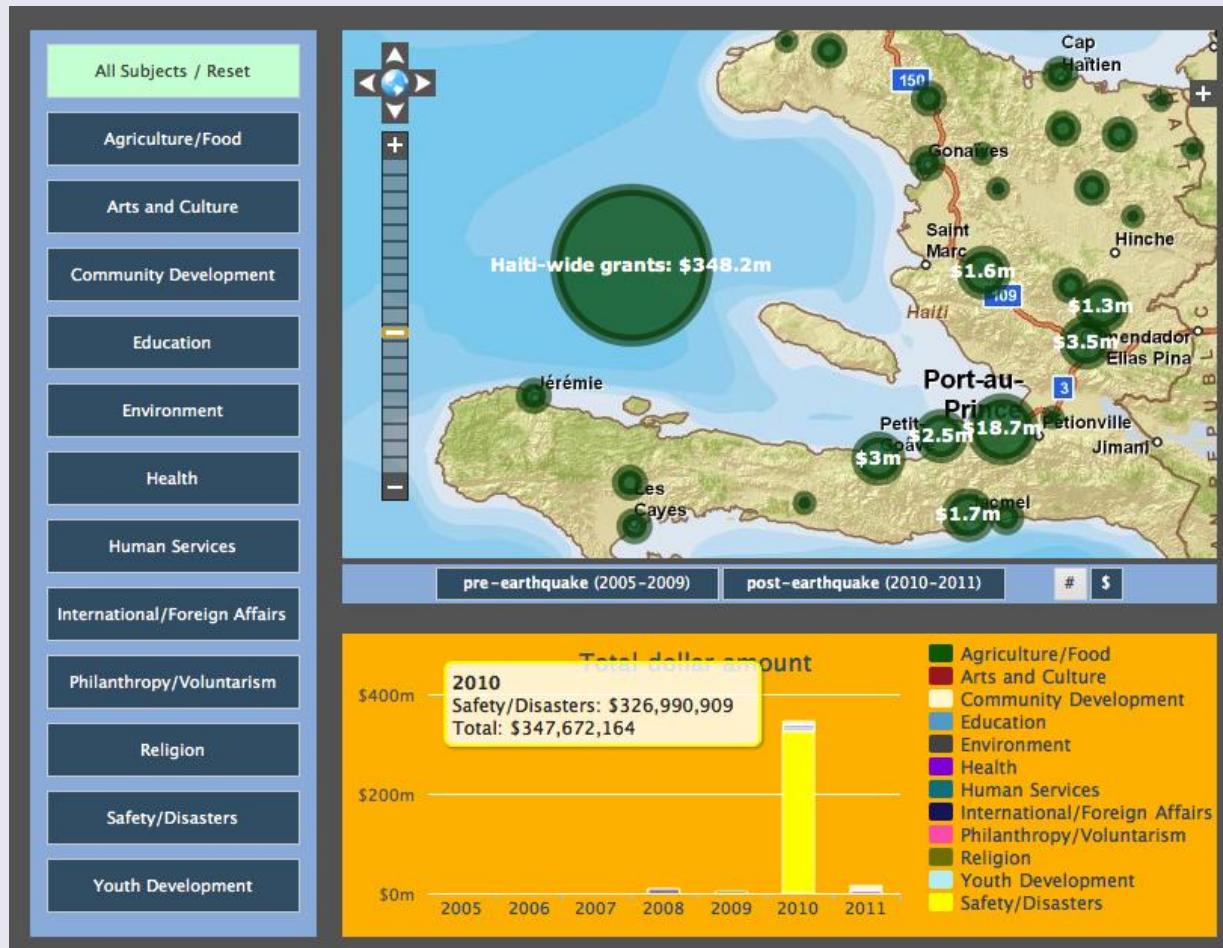


**Specific regions/topics:**
Haiti, grant $,
each subject

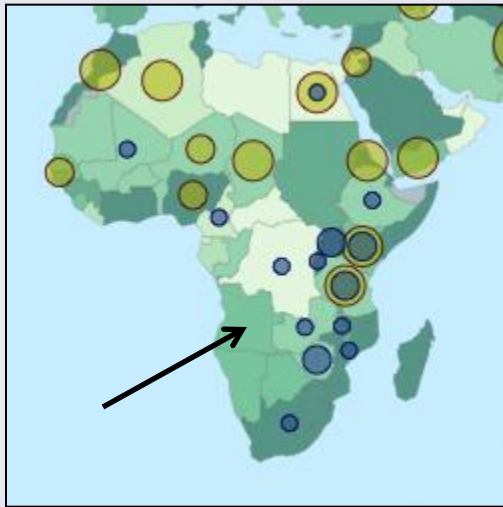(**including** funding for Safety/Disasters)

foundationcenter.org/haiti
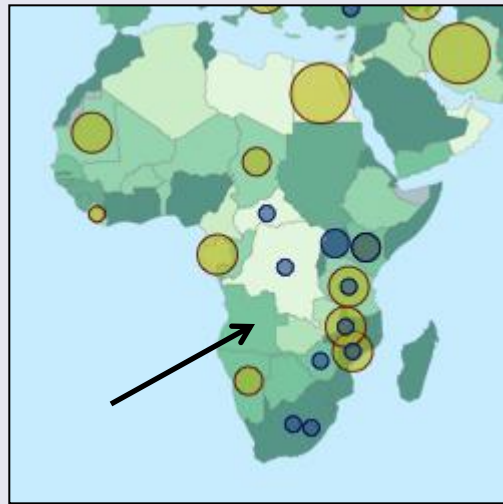
An API exists for this data.

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# Combining open datasets
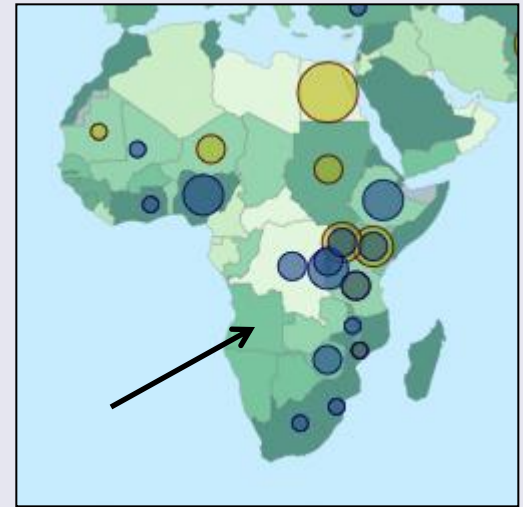
**FC and World Bank data**
No Ag/Forestry project funding in Angola, 2001 to 2007



**2003**     **2005**     **2007**

This app uses the World Bank's data API.
http://gis.foundationcenter.org/worldmap/index.php

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# Combining open datasets

**FC, World Bank, and OECD data**
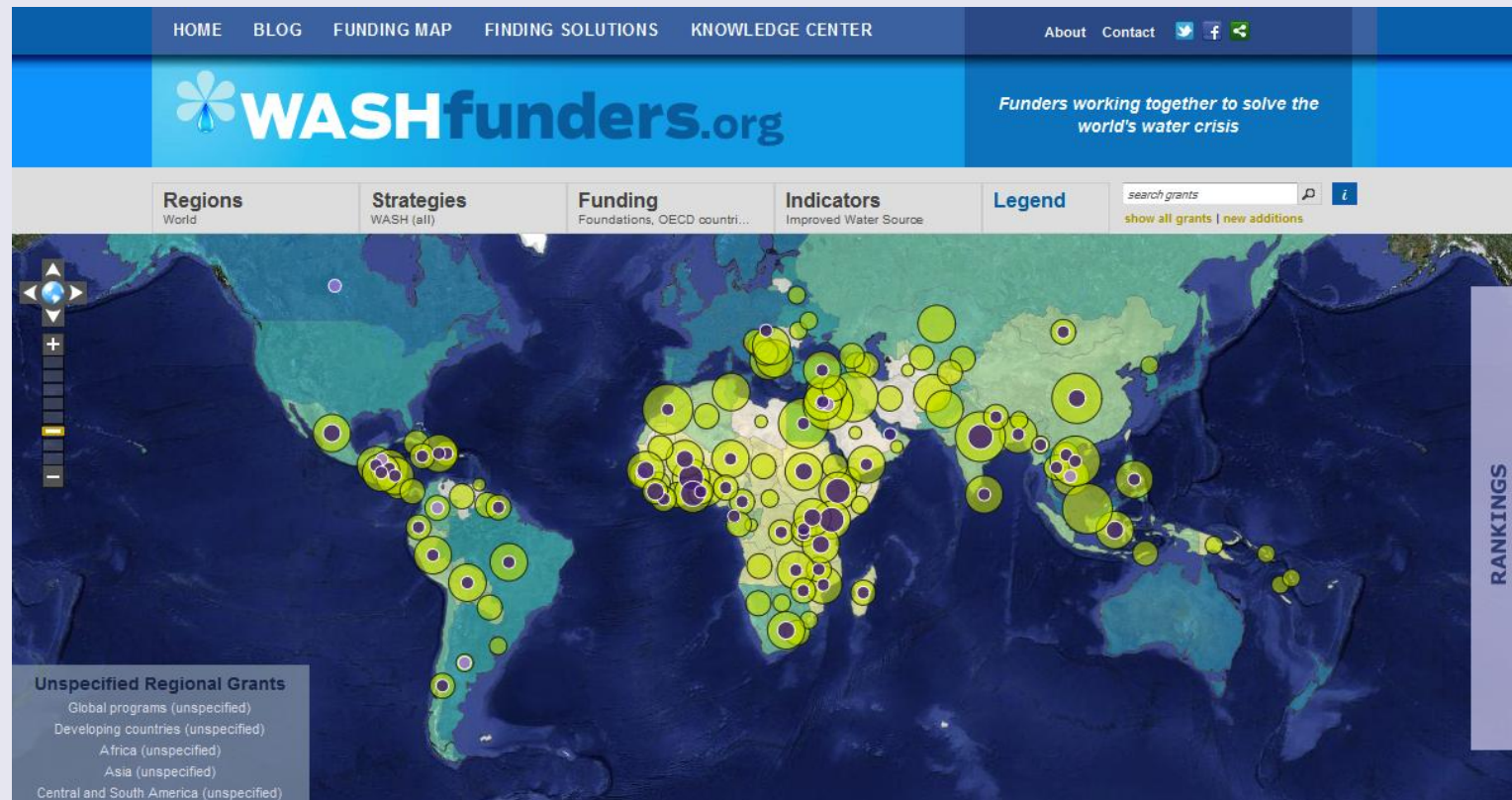Funding for water, sanitation, and hygiene worldwide



This app uses the World Bank's data API (referencing JMP's data).

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# Combining open datasets

**FC, World Bank, and OECD data**
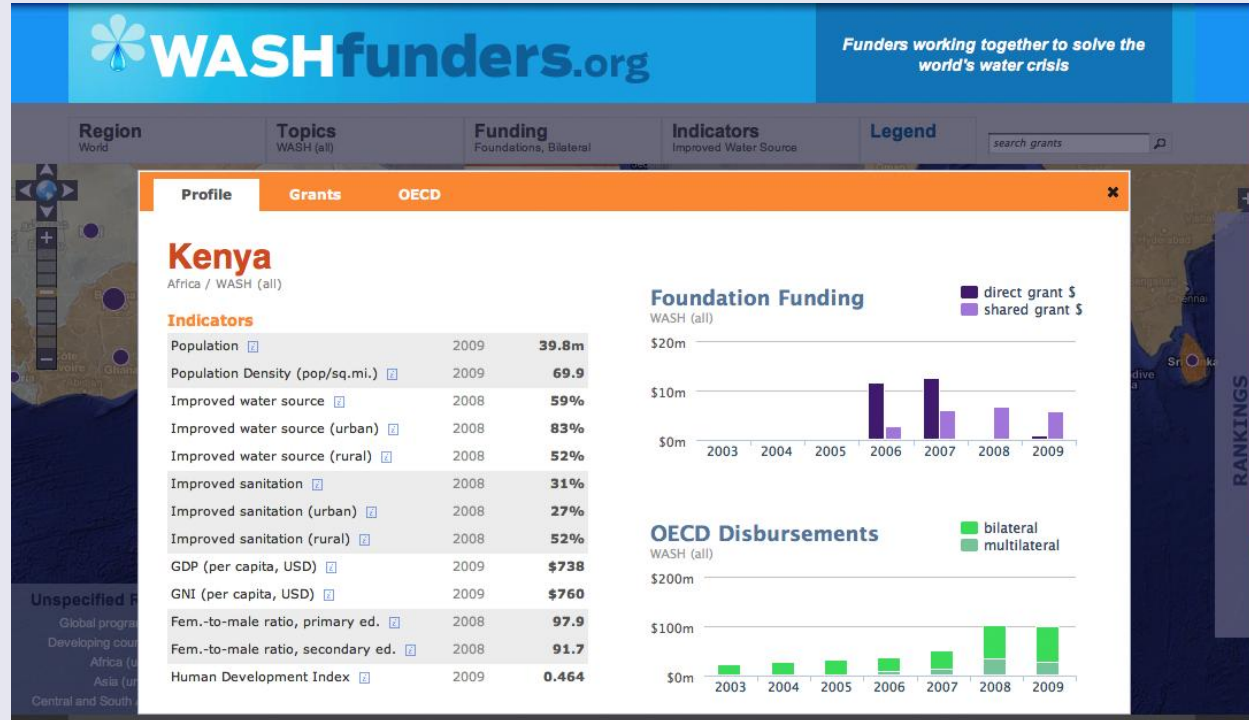OECD funding for WASH projects



This includes OECD's data, which is open but is not available via API.

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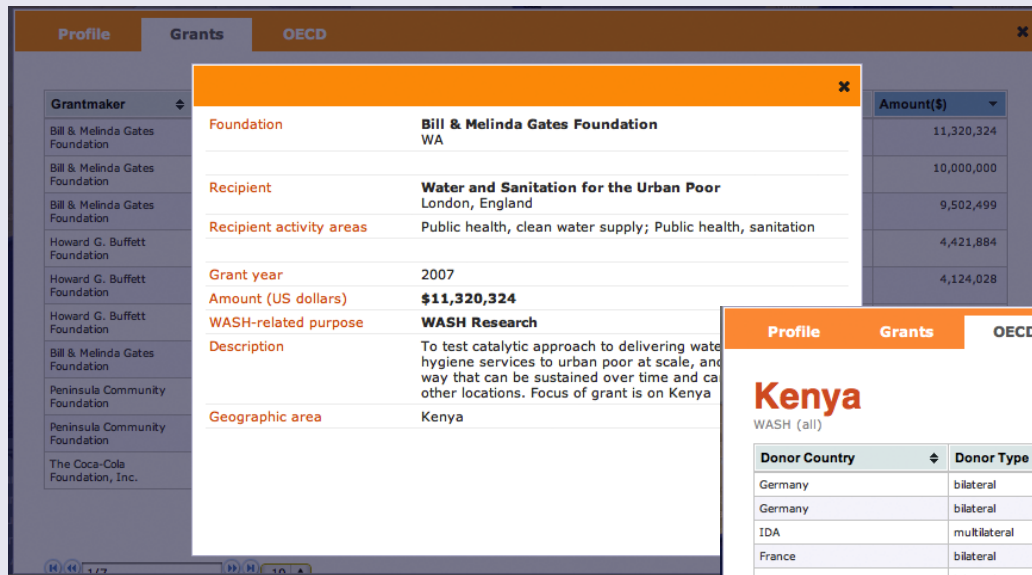
# Combining open datasets

## FC, World Bank, and OECD data
Viewing a country profile with multiple data sources: Kenya



This includes data from the World Bank's data API, as well as OECD's data, which is open but is not available via API.

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# Combining open datasets
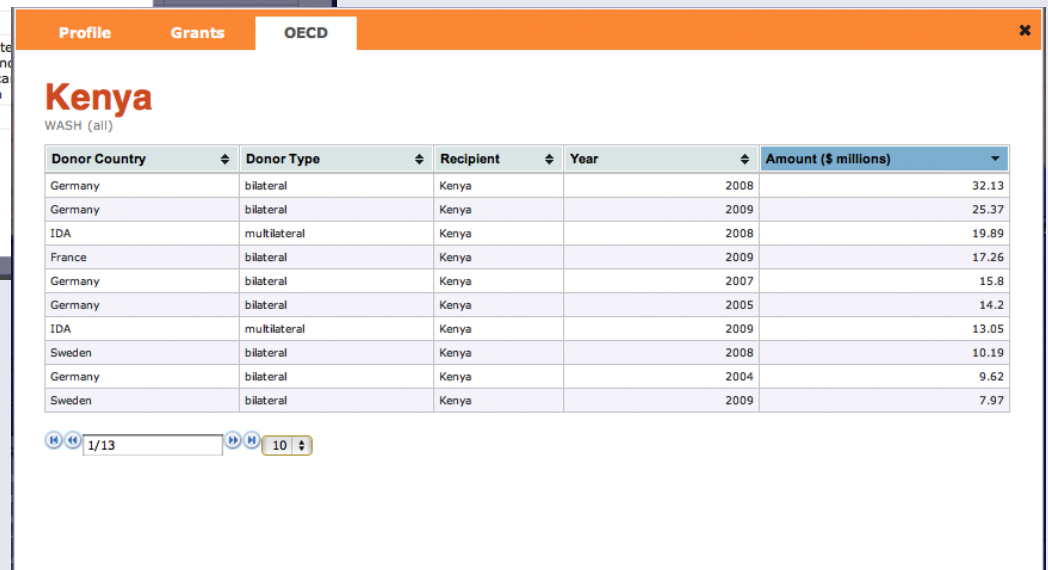


**Grant records**

This includes OECD's data, which is open but is not available via API.

**FC and OECD data**
Viewing funding details:
**Kenya**

**OECD funding**

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# Benefits of consuming and providing data via APIs

**No need for redundant data stores** or single "master" repository of all possible datasets

No need for common/shared platform

**Each data consumer gets info updates on demand** (no more emailing/FTP'ing spreadsheets, compressed files, or DBs).

Data authenticity: **get info directly from the source.**



JSON data via API/web svc.

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# Prototype application: HAITI AID
## U.S. foundation grants and World Bank projects, Haiti, 2005-2011



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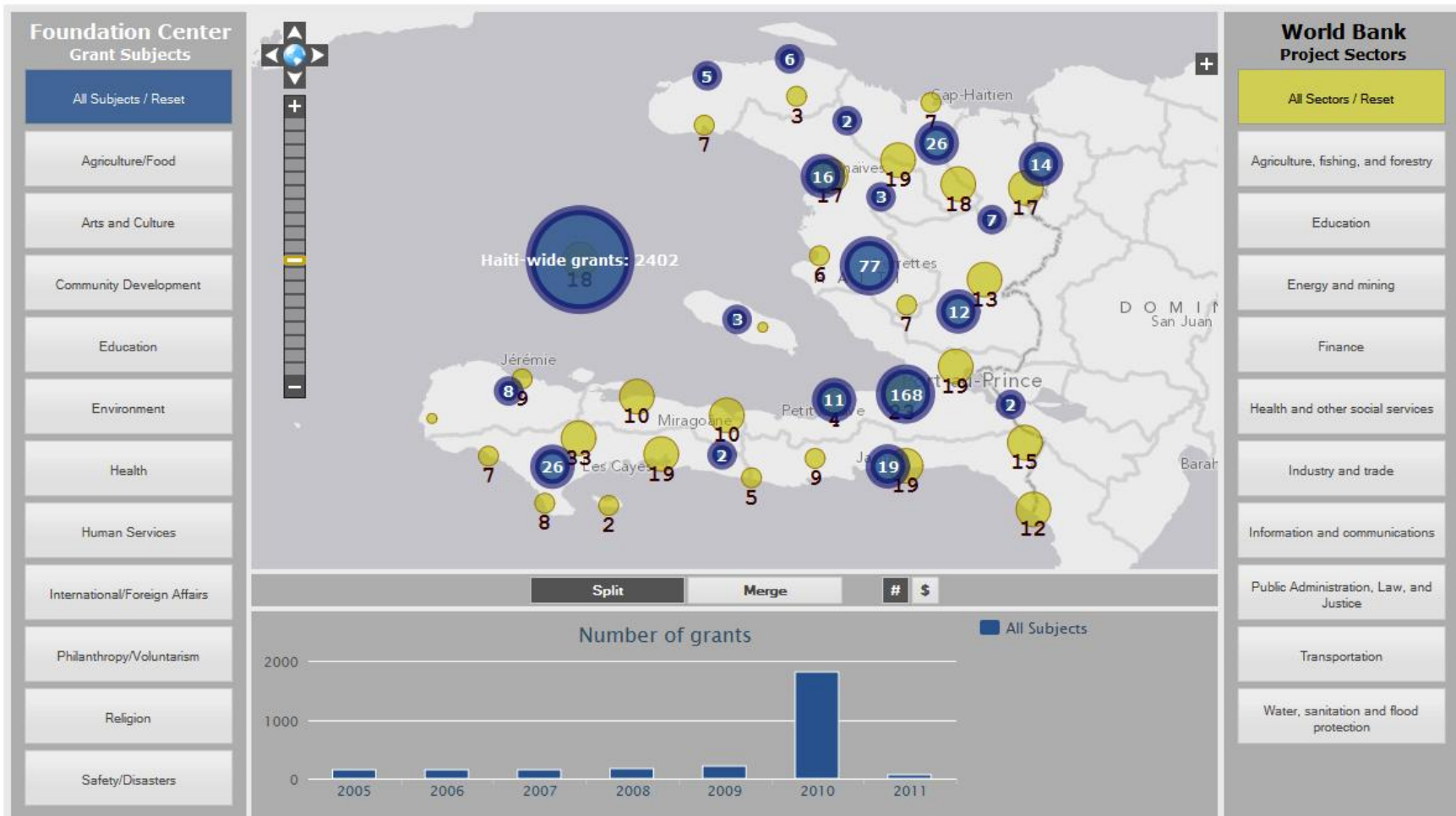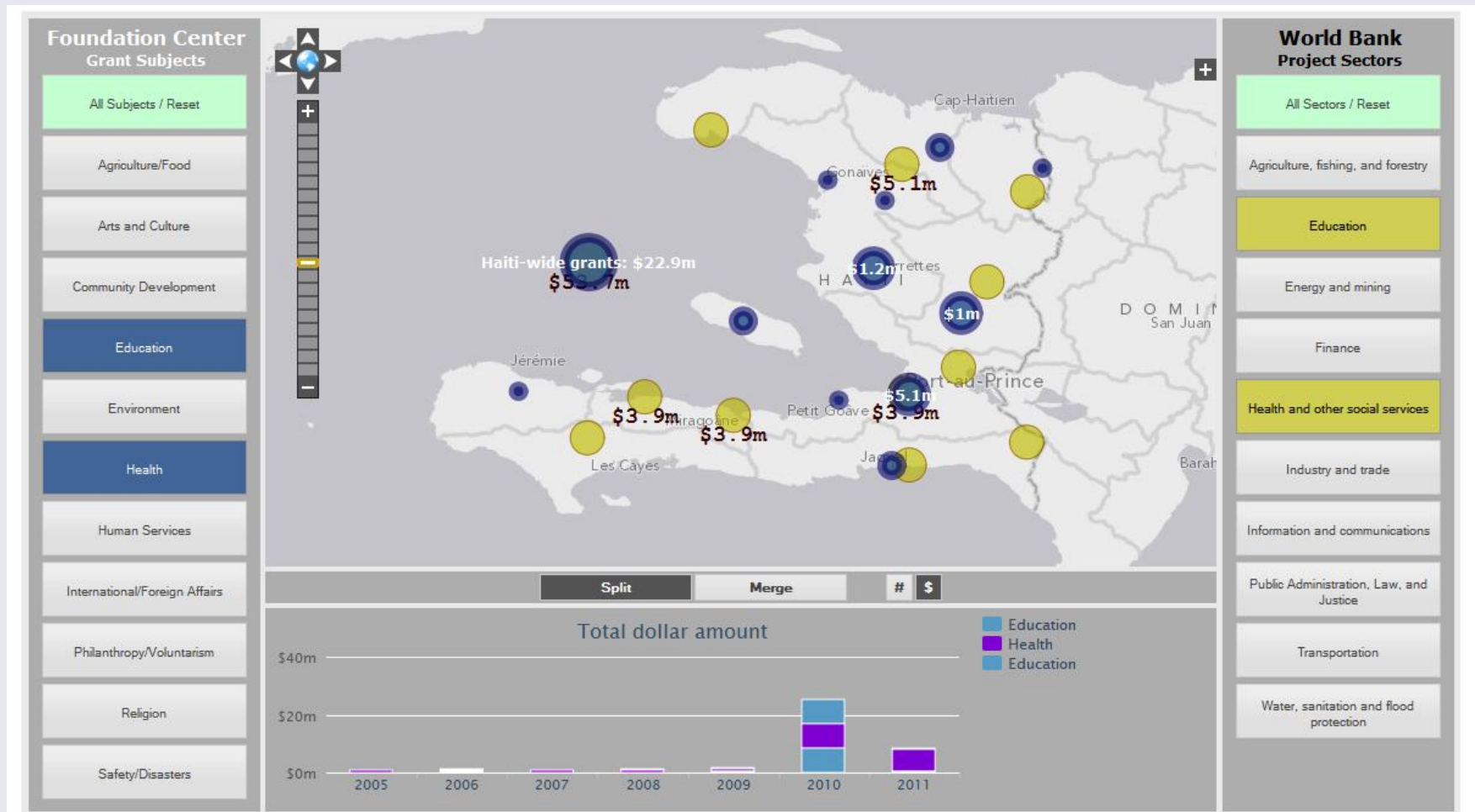
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# Prototype application: HAITI AID
## U.S. foundation grants and World Bank projects, Health & Education



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# Prototype application: HAITI AID
## U.S. foundation grants and World Bank projects, Health & Education



**Foundation Center**
**Grant Subjects**

- All Subjects / Reset
- Agriculture/Food
- Arts and Culture
- Community Development
- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Human Services
- International/Foreign Affairs
- Philanthropy/Voluntarism
- Religion
- Safety/Disasters

$5.5m
$76.6m
$4.1m
$3.2m
$6.7m
$10.6m

**FC grants and WB projects, merged**

Split | Merge | # | $

Total dollar amount

- Education
- Health
- Education

$40m
$20m
$0m

2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011

**World Bank**
**Project Sectors**
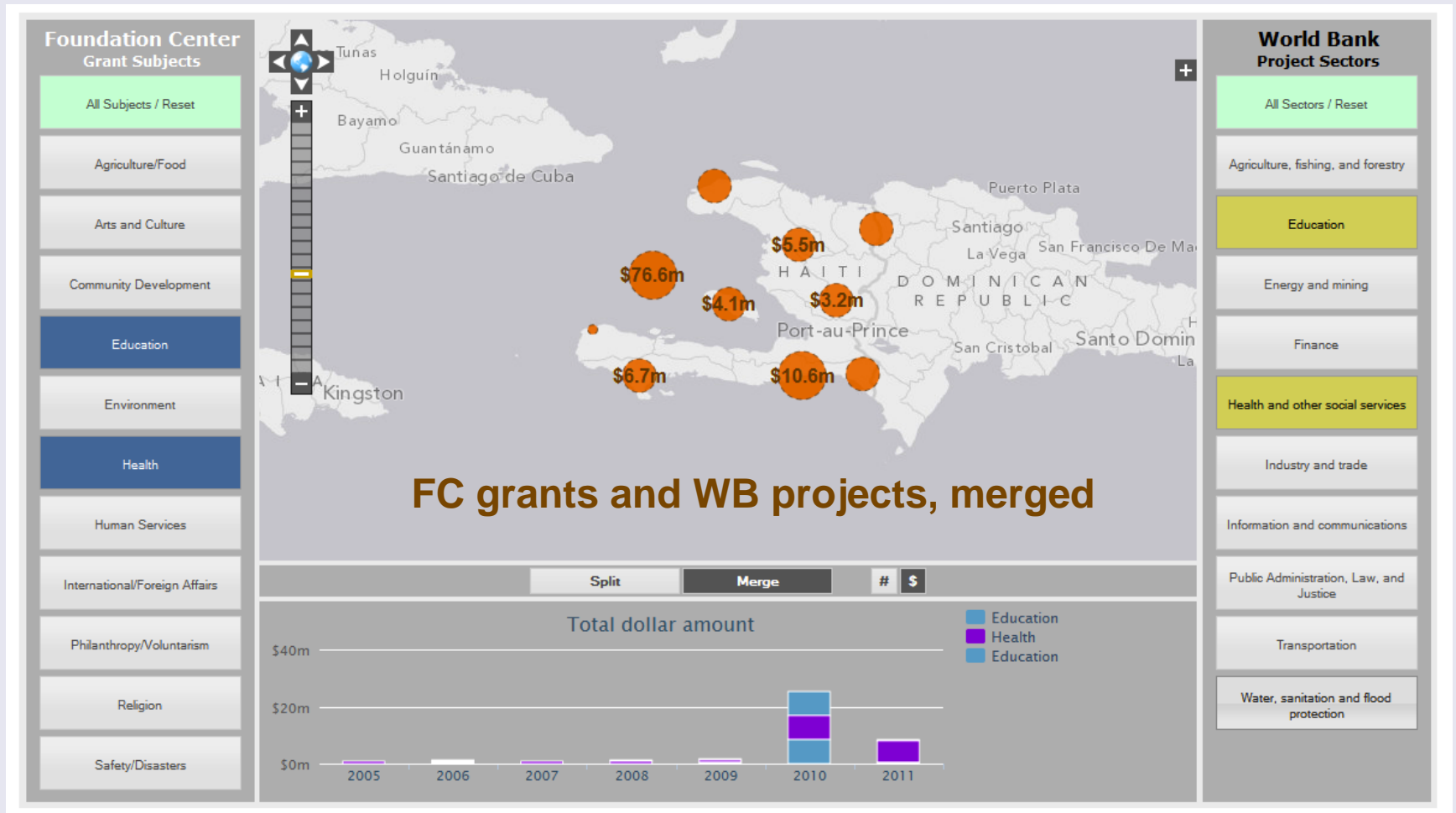
- All Sectors / Reset
- Agriculture, fishing, and forestry
- Education
- Energy and mining
- Finance
- Health and other social services
- Industry and trade
- Information and communications
- Public Administration, Law, and Justice
- Transportation
- Water, sanitation and flood protection

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# Prototype application: HAITI AID
## U.S. foundation grants and World Bank projects, All Sectors/Subjects



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# Prototype application: HAITI AID
## U.S. foundation grants and World Bank projects, All Sectors/Subjects



**2,809 foundation grants, $477.2 million (80% for Disaster Relief)**

**338 WB project locations, $326 million (35% for Transportation)**
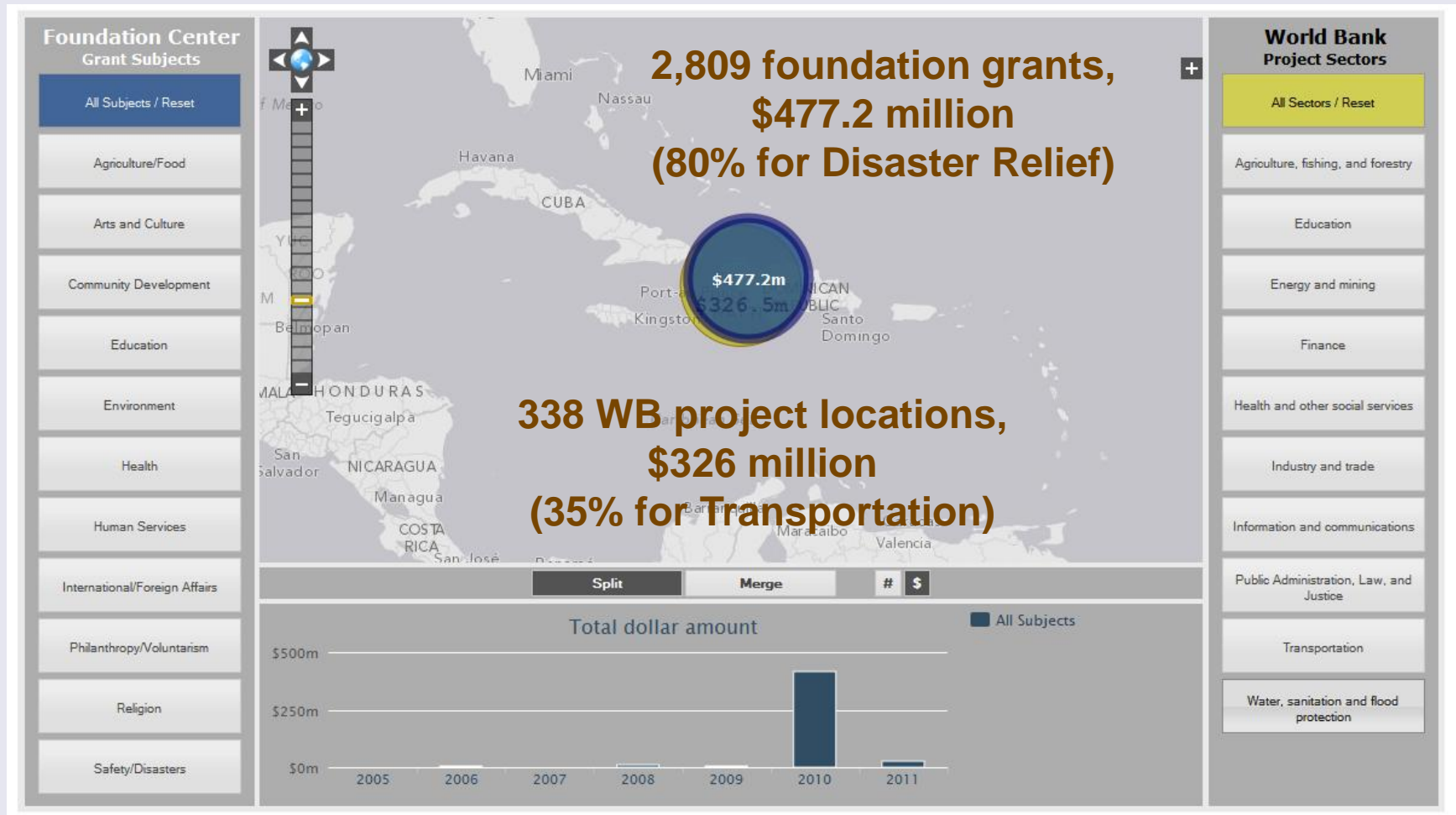
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# Prototype application: HAITI AID

## Foundation grants and WB projects, Disaster Relief / Transportation
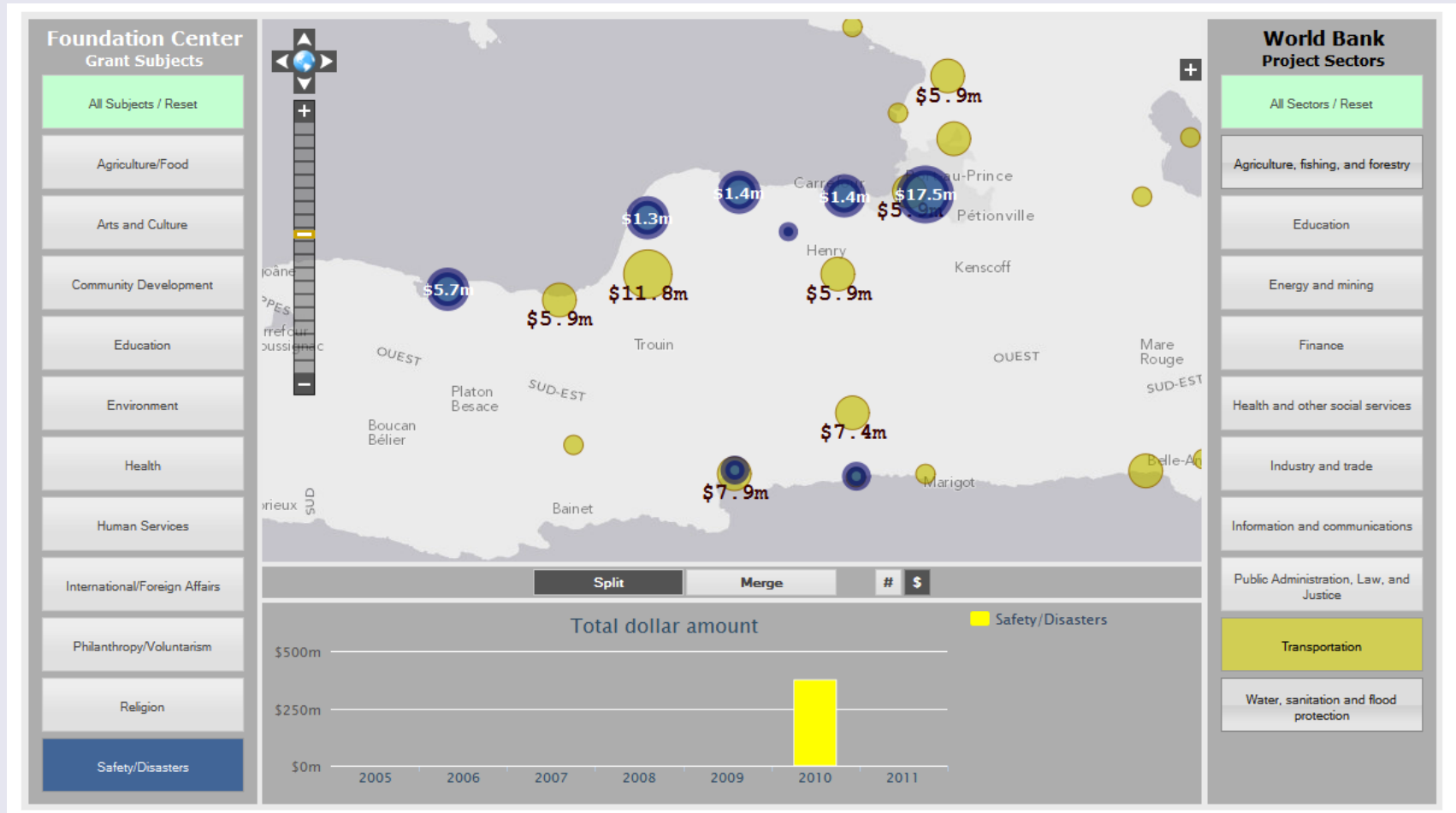


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# Prototype application: HAITI AID
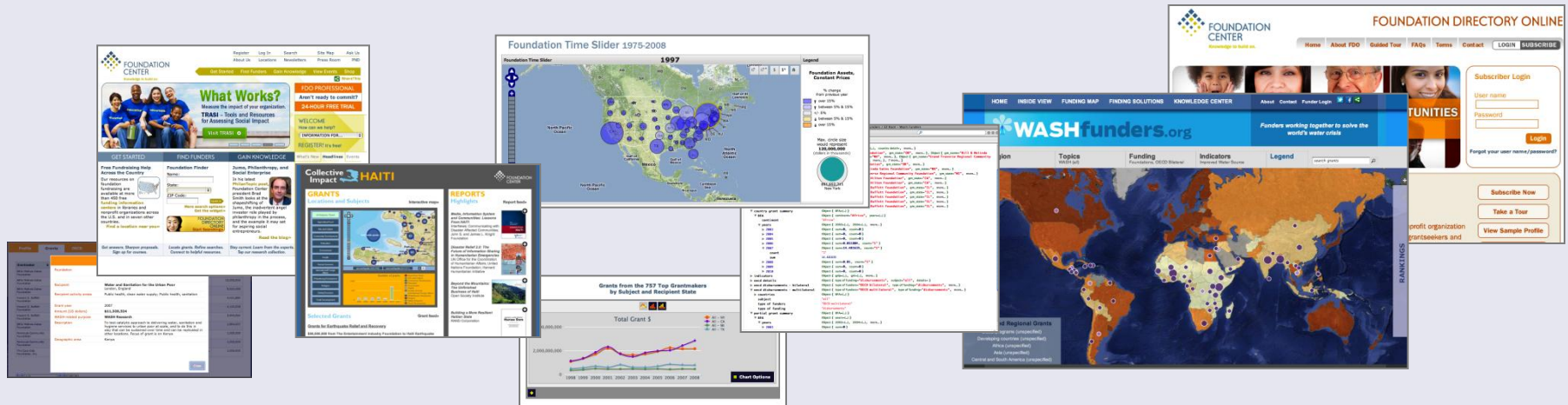## U.S. foundation grants and World Bank projects, Haiti, 2005-2011
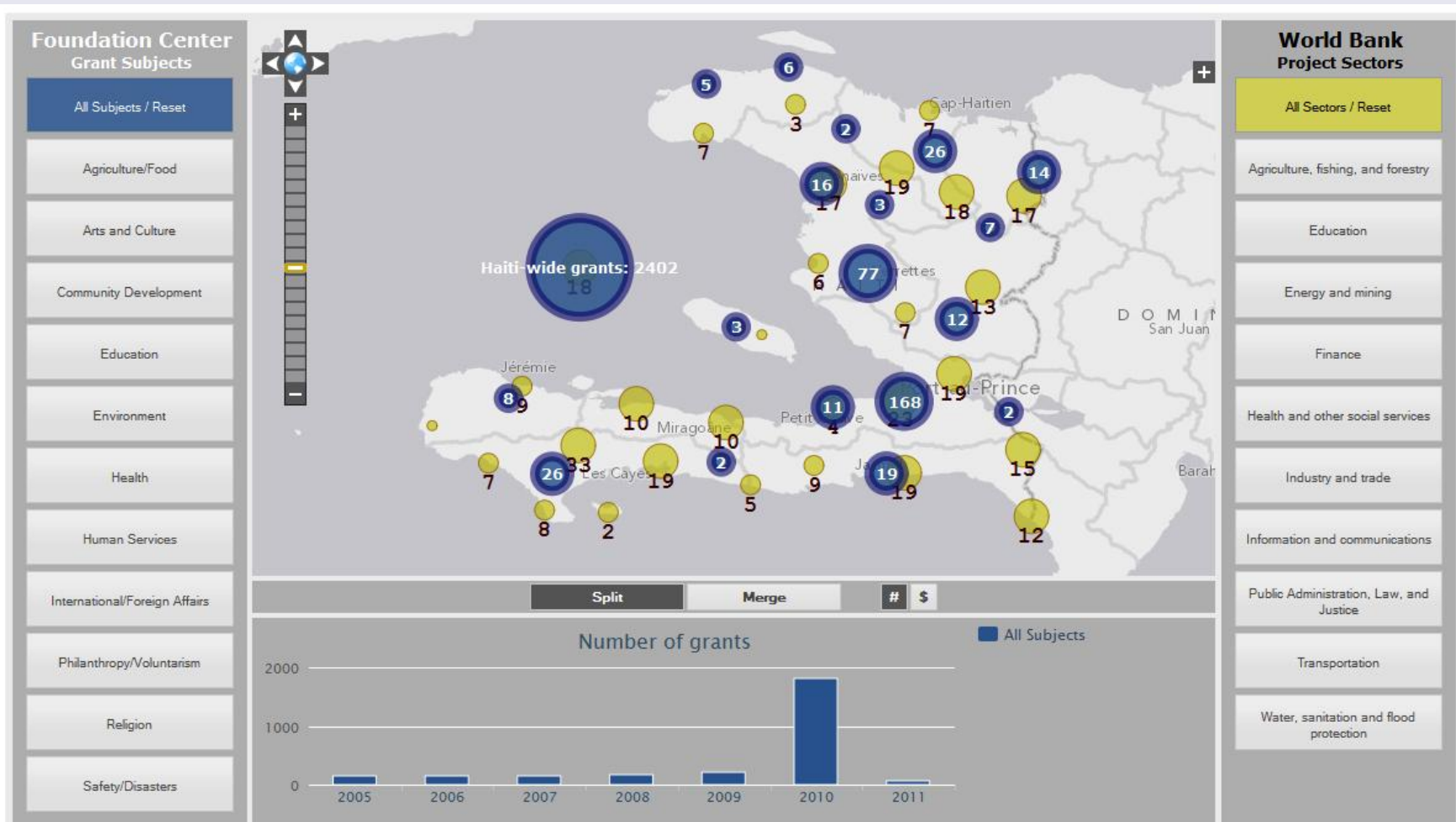


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# Takeaway #1

## The Foundation Center has extensive data on international philanthropy.

4.6 million grants from 104,000 foundations, and counting, accessible via dozens of data products.



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# Takeaway #2

## Good (open) data requires curation.

Much of the Foundation Center's data is (or will soon be) available for free on portals or via API.

The degree to which the rest of our data, and future data, becomes free depends on **external funding sources**, due to the cost of curating the data.
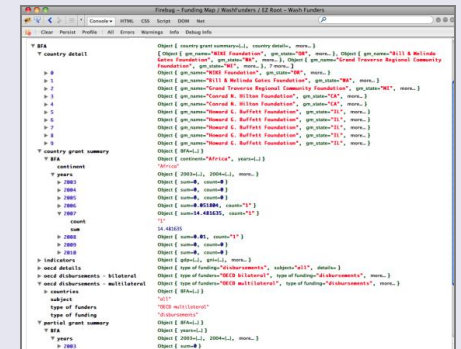
 + **curation** = 

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