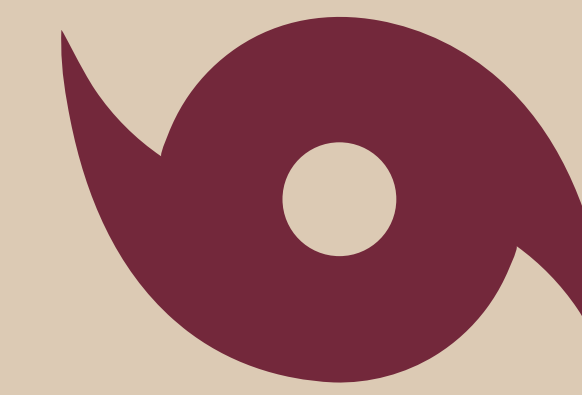


# Barriers in Disaster Response & Recovery



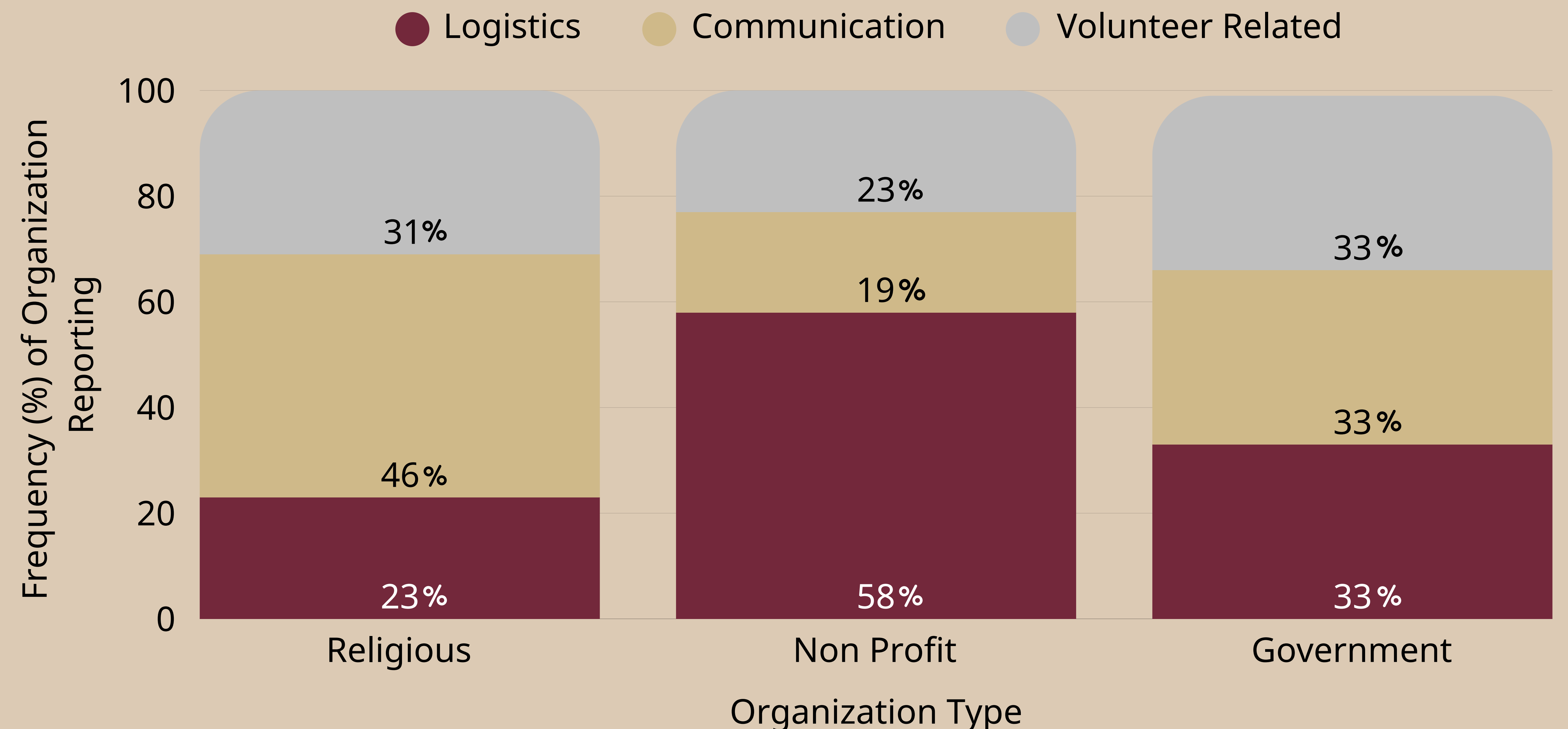
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## Introduction

- Through major disasters across the state- including hurricanes, tornadoes, and wildfires- an extraordinary amount of money and resources is poured into disaster recovery. Many nonprofits, religious, and governmental sectors act to direct relief and recovery efforts (Berlan, 2025).
- This project surveys these organizations/agencies who were impacted by or responded to disasters in Florida in 2024-2025, to quantify disaster philanthropy efforts.
- Organizations frequently encounter setbacks and challenges that can delay or restrict their ability to reach relief goals. Some issues include cultural barriers (Dietrich, A. 2012) or communication challenges (Tang, T., Luo T., Walton, H., 2024).
- This poster will analyze what those common setbacks are and which types of organizations may be experiencing them.
- Further research on emergency management organizations can identify additional issues and lead to improved practices.
- Participating organizations have the chance to reflect and rethink practices.
- Research beyond this project may include working out which training policies are the best to put in place.

## Frequency of Reported Issues Per Organization Type



## Methods

- To conduct this study, an online survey using Qualtrics was sent out to organizations by invitation. Much of the sampling was snowballed, as we asked for recommendations for further invitations. The survey asks questions about impact/contributions towards disasters.
- This poster will focus on questions of the survey that ask about organization type and challanegs/setbacks that may have been faced.*
- Organization types that will be compared include religious, non-profits, and government.
  - Setbacks and challenges analyzed include volunteer limitations, logistical barriers, and communication.

## References



## Results

- About 52% of the organizations reported some sort of logistical issue, which is expected considering storm damages. These include debris damaging transportation, supply chain issues, power problems, road navigation and inter-organizational collaboration.
- Communication challenges were identified as a significant barrier; respondents frequently cited a lack of internet access as the primary cause, alongside inefficiencies in collaboration.
- Volunteer related issues like capacity, housing, and training is also a common setback.
- Unlike research cited prior, culture did not seem to be a pressing matter in recent years, in our data.

## Discussion

- Religious organizations show more communication issues than non-profits which could be linked to network formality.
- Culture surprisingly did not appear as often, those issues however, may be overshadowed by such immediate logistical demands (e.g. supplies, arranging shelter).
- Not much data has been collected on the government sector which may explain the even distribution.
- Something else to consider is the relationship between logistical barriers and communication; these seem to have some serious overlap