

Scammers are realizing new opportunities in the donations response to global crises.

Global crises, such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russian war against Ukraine, often spur concerned citizens and, unfortunately, fraudsters to action.

1 | Global Crises are Often Followed by a Wave of Charitable Donations

Rise in charitable digital transactions among the LexisNexis® Digital Identity Network® in February 2022,¹ following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.



World Bank contribution to fight the pandemic's impacts:

\$92.5 billion
December 31, 2018 – March 31 2020

+60%
Increase in donations over the 15-month period prior to the pandemic.



\$157 billion
April 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021²

2 | Fraudsters Follow the Money

+569% <http://www.>

Growth in cybercriminals registering domain names containing keywords, such as “coronavirus” or “covid” from February to March 2020.⁴

That equals **200,000** newly registered sites in 80 countries.



196
Reports of fake requests to fundraise for victims of the Ukraine crisis were received by the U.K.'s national fraud reporting centre up to March 2022.⁵

\$14 billion
Value of scams related to cryptocurrency during Covid-19 pandemic in 2021.

3 | Charity Scams Vary in Type and Strategy

- Person-in-need** scams claim urgency and the need for secrecy
- Testing, vaccine** and offer fake home test kits and “miracle” cures
- Impersonation** of charities where fraudsters claim to be from a legitimate organization with a list of vulnerable people who require support, sharing a fake website for donations⁷
- Procurement** fraud, selling vital personal protective equipment (PPE) to charities, such as face masks and gloves

4 | Four Ways to Protect Your Donation

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- 1** Donate directly to a known charitable organization.
 - 2** If you haven't heard of charity, search online to look for any scams being reported against that organization.
 - 3** If you are contacted directly and the caller is trying to elicit an emotional urgent response, don't engage and do some research before taking action.
 - 4** Be skeptical if gift cards are requested.

For other tips consider viewing your country's consumer protection sites such as: <https://consumer.ftc.gov/features/how-donate-wisely-andavoid-charity-scams>

Stay One Step Ahead of Scammers with a Layered Approach to Fraud

Discover how LexisNexis® Risk Solutions brings together fraud management, identity verification and risk insights by leveraging network intelligence, industry-trusted global coverage and intellectual property to enable your business to confidently differentiate between a trusted customer and threat, while maintaining a seamless customer experience.

[Visit our Website to Learn More](#)

Sources
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 3 <https://fundraising.co.uk/2022/03/16/ukraine-crisis-sparks-32-increase-in-number-of-people-saying-they-donated-in-past-week/#:~:text=Features,Ukraine%20crisis%20sparks%2032%25%20increase%20in%20number%20of%20people,they%20donated%20in%20past%20week&text=The%20number%20of%20self%20reported,of%20support%20across%20the%20UK.>
 4 <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2020/INTERPOL-report-shows-alarming-rate-of-cyberattacks-during-COVID-19>
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