

# 2019

## Latter-day Saint Charities Annual Report



# Year in Review

2019 has been a year of inspired service, strengthened partnerships, medical milestones, and impactful global change made possible by the generosity and selflessness of our donors and members.



Latter-day Saint Charities is named for the people of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and represents them in relieving suffering and building self-reliance globally. As our vision states, we strive to embrace the two great commandments: to love God and love our neighbor.

Through your help, the work of Latter-day Saint Charities is moving forward. This work is centered around our new mission—a mission that has been refined into a new statement: we help others feel the love of Jesus Christ by relieving suffering, instilling hope, and building stability to strengthen families and promote individual dignity.

This year, along with our new mission statement came a name change for the organization. What once was LDS Charities is now Latter-day Saint Charities. This new title emphasizes the origin of the organization's support, as it is sustained by Latter-day Saints and other individuals who desire to make a positive change worldwide.

This year we addressed issues across the world. Some of this help included providing relief for Cyclones Idai and Kenneth, which caused flooding and destroyed crops in Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe. Latter-day Saint Charities sprang to action after disaster struck and worked alongside global and local partners to provide food and shelter to victims of the storms through its Johannesburg regional office.

During this same devastation, Latter-day Saint Charities expanded help to global partners to meet people's basic needs and rebuild their livelihoods. Even months after the cyclones, efforts continue to help repair and refurbish schools ahead of the rainy season so that students have a dry place to study and learn. Whether responding to natural disasters, infectious diseases, or food shortages, the Latter-day Saint Charities emergency response team has worked to provide immediate relief to help individuals and families survive, recover, and thrive.

## HOW WE ARE FUNDED

The funds used to support Latter-day Saint Charities are given online or to local ecclesiastical leaders by members and friends of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Church's Philanthropies Department facilitates major or planned gifts. Donations of all sizes come from individuals and organizations all over the world.

## Guiding Principles

Latter-day Saint Charities is founded on three guiding principles. These principles, based on our faith in Jesus Christ, empower individuals and families regardless of race, religion, or nationality.

### 1 CARE FOR THOSE IN GREATEST NEED

We are all connected and have a responsibility to care for people in need. In many instances, both immediate relief and long-term solutions are needed to help a community.

### 2 PROMOTE VOLUNTEERISM

We all have gifts and talents to contribute. Through volunteerism, benefits come to those who give service and to those who receive service.

### 3 INSPIRE SELF-RELIANCE

Every community has the talents and resources to find solutions to its needs. As individuals and communities become more self-reliant, they are equipped to solve challenges and lift others.

THROUGH GENEROUS DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS, LATTER-DAY SAINT CHARITIES HAS PROVIDED OVER

**\$2.3 billion**

WORTH OF ASSISTANCE IN

**197 countries**

SINCE 1985.



# Summary of Initiatives

Since 1985, Latter-day Saint Charities has worked with government ministries, nongovernmental organizations, and community-based organizations to help millions of people worldwide. Built on the foundation of personal responsibility, community support, self-reliance, and sustainability, our efforts give individuals and communities the resources they need to improve their lives in lasting and meaningful ways.



© UNHCR/Firas Al-Khateeb

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

When disasters occur, we provide volunteer labor, food, clothing, medical supplies, and other emergency assistance to relieve the suffering of those in urgent need.

**175**

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES SINCE 1985

**194**

PROJECTS IN 65 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES DURING 2019

## VISION

We help prevent avoidable blindness and provide services for the visually impaired by partnering with global professionals.

**81**

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES SINCE 2003

**129,819**

PEOPLE IN 32 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES DURING 2019

## MATERNAL AND NEWBORN CARE

We provide training and equipment for attendants to support the care and resuscitation of newborns at birth in addition to improving maternal survival following births.

**94**

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES SINCE 2003

**83,555**

PEOPLE IN 27 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES DURING 2019

## FOOD SECURITY

We work with trusted partners to improve the health and well-being of families and communities using local solutions and resources.

**41**

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES SINCE 2006

**138**

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO SCHOLARS IN 11 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

**181,398**

PEOPLE IN 15 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES DURING 2019

## CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Along with our partners, we build water and sanitation systems and teach communities about system maintenance, empowering them to meet their long-term water needs.

**77**

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES SINCE 2002

**316,790**

PEOPLE IN 26 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES DURING 2019



## WHEELCHAIRS

Working with local organizations, we improve services for the physically disabled and provide wheelchairs and walking aids that are suited to individual needs.

**134**

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES SINCE 2001

**52,381**

PEOPLE HELPED IN 41 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES DURING 2019

## REFUGEE RESPONSE

We support refugees by providing both immediate relief and long-term support in partnership with resettlement agencies.

**122**

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES SINCE 1985

**387**

PROJECTS IN 48 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES DURING 2019

## IMMUNIZATIONS

We work with global immunization partners to increase routine vaccinations and reduce the number of lives lost to preventable diseases.

**46**

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES SINCE 2002

**6**

CAMPAIGNS TO ELIMINATE DISEASE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES DURING 2019



© WaterAid

## INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

We aim to solve problems on a community level by leveraging local partners, resources, and solutions.

**176**

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES SINCE 1985

**994**

PROJECTS IN 107 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES DURING 2019

## U.S. AND CANADA COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Together with community partners and organizations in the United States, we address issues such as homelessness, immigrant and refugee resettlement, and other concerns through community projects.

**42**

STATES AND PROVINCES DURING 2019



# Global Reach

Through the help of our donors, Latter-day Saint Charities has a global footprint that reaches people of all backgrounds.

IN 2019, LATTER-DAY SAINT CHARITIES WORKED IN

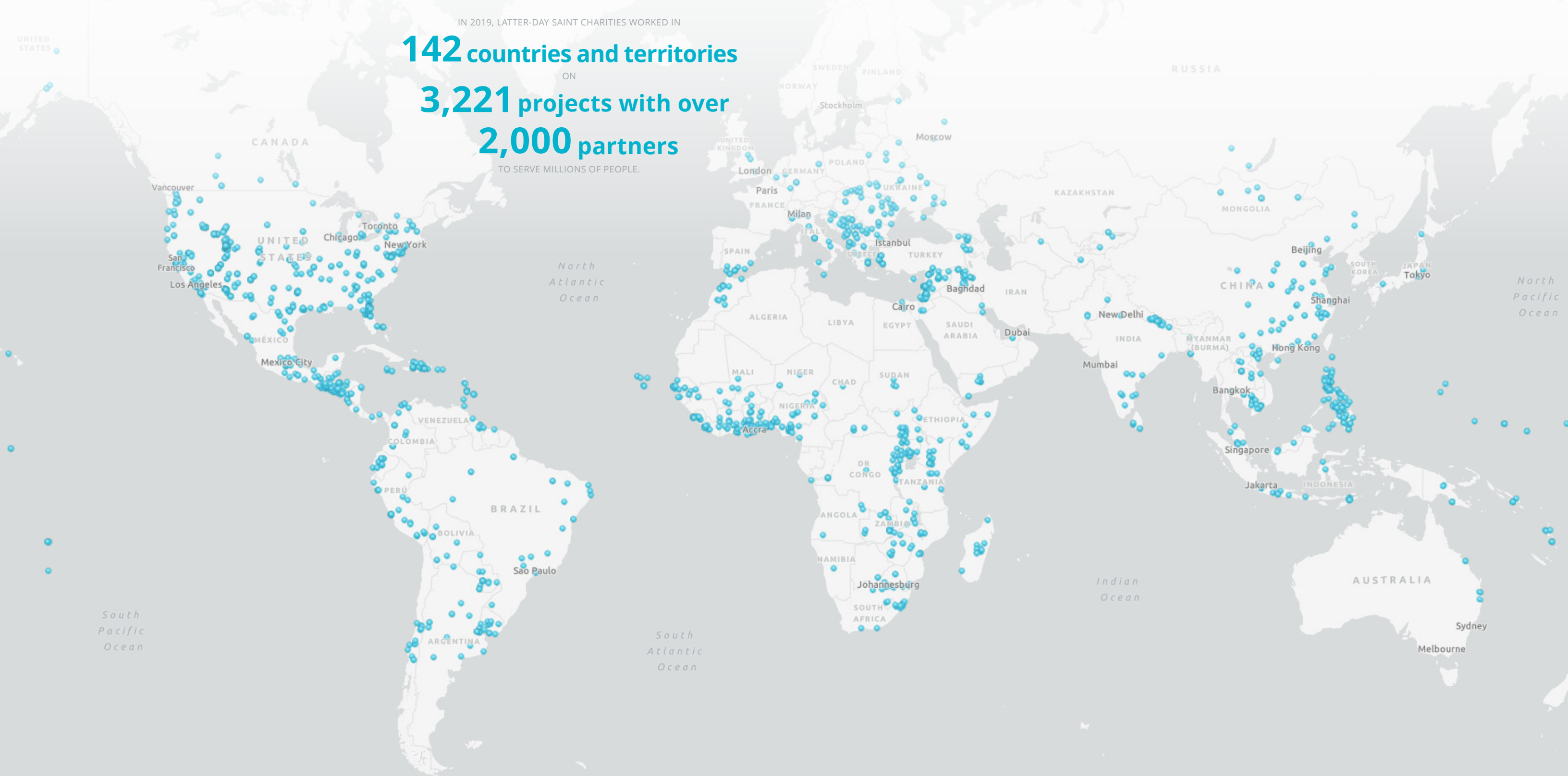
**142** countries and territories

ON

**3,221** projects with over

**2,000** partners

TO SERVE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE.





# Immunizations

## 47 countries

HAVE COMPLETELY ELIMINATED MNT; 12 REMAIN AT RISK.

*Thanks to dedicated donors, Latter-day Saint Charities has been able to be a part of the maternal and newborn tetanus (MNT) elimination movement since 2013 through programs led by UNICEF and the World Health Organization—and we continue to be active in the fight to eliminate MNT.*

To date, only 12 countries remain at risk for MNT, as 47 countries have completely eliminated the disease. Recent successes of the global initiative include eliminations in Ethiopia, Haiti, and the Philippines in 2017, Kenya in 2018, and the DRC and Chad in 2019.

This disease affects women of childbearing age and their children. Tetanus is contracted by exposure to spores of bacteria commonly found in dirt. Mothers who are not



© UNICEF/UNICEF Chad

immunized and give birth outside of hygienic facilities are mainly at risk. Their infected infants can suffer an agonizing and painful death.

**IF A WOMAN RECEIVES THE PROPER VACCINATIONS, HOWEVER, SHE WILL RETAIN IMMUNITY FROM MNT THROUGHOUT HER CHILDBEARING YEARS.**



© UNICEF/UN0328788/Prinsloo



# Vision Care



© Himalayan Cataract Project/Ammon Cluff

*Kwame Quaye (82) from Cape Coast, Ghana, is known for his contagious smile and easygoing personality. He's constantly offering fist bumps to passing friends. Unfortunately, Quaye has suffered with cataracts.*

After receiving cataract surgery through the National Cataract Outreach Program with the Himalayan Cataract Project, Quaye was able to see clearly again and better able to take care of himself and his family. Those caring for Quaye after his surgery say he was able to read and spell out letters on his surgeon's shirt, something he would have never been able to do before.

To help patients suffering with cataracts, ophthalmologists performed a manual small-incision cataract surgery (MSICS or SICS). During this procedure, the cataract is pulled from the eye and a new lens is inserted.

Through the initiative, Latter-day Saint Charities helped some 700 patients like Quaye receive necessary cataract care.

GHANA HAS A POPULATION OF 25 MILLION WITH AN ESTIMATED

## 187,500 people

BLIND DUE TO CATARACTS.

# Emergency Response

## 1.4 million

SYRIANS RETURNED TO FIND THEIR HOMES IN RUIN.

*Before the war, Souran, Syria, was home to some 47,000 people, many of them farmers, merchants, and laborers. Now, for Zahida and her four children, Souran is a town ravaged by war. Because of the Syrian conflict, Zahida's family experienced intense trials, including the loss of their home.*

When armed groups overran the town in August 2016, the town emptied overnight with residents fleeing to Turkey, Lebanon, Hama, and other parts of Syria.

During the conflict, Zahida's husband disappeared and her eldest son was forced to flee. In order to sustain the family that still remained, Zahida fled to Lebanon at 35 years of age and began work. Before long, her family returned to Souran to rebuild their life and see what remained of their home. Unfortunately, they returned to see it utterly destroyed.



© UNHCR/Houssam Hariri

Like Zahida, two-thirds of the population have now returned to Souran, and an estimated 1.4 million have found their homes reduced to rubble. Millions still remain internally displaced across Syria, and over 6 million live as refugees in other countries.

Because of our donors and volunteers, refugees like Zahida are rebuilding their lives in the hardest of conditions.

**“ WE FELT THAT WE WERE IN THE STONE AGE. . . . THE DESTRUCTION WAS INDESCRIBABLE,” ZAHIDA RECOUNTS. “AT FIRST, I COULD NOT RECOGNIZE MY HOMETOWN.”**





# Clean Water and Sanitation

*For the Reeba family, most things in their life are homemade, from the garden where they grow pumpkins, bananas, and taro to their storefront where they bake fresh bread to make their living.*

The family has a water source for washing clothes and cleaning dishes, but clean drinking water was a scarce resource in their community. To get drinking water, the Reebas relied on the Public Board of Utilities, which supplied water two times a week for about one hour. The family filled as many containers as possible, but inevitably they had to cut back on drinking water consumption or they would run out.

Latter-day Saint Charities helped install rainwater catchment tanks in the community that the Reeba family can now access. They access the tanks three times a day, and the trips take less than five minutes. This increases efficiency for the family, who can now spend more time at their bakery making and selling bread.



**“ WE ARE NOW ABLE TO BAKE BREAD TWICE A DAY AND HAVE DOUBLED OUR INCOME. WE ALSO FEEL OUR DRINKING WATER IS SAFE NOW. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE WATER TANKS.”**



# How You Can Help

*The most effective humanitarian work involves finding local solutions to local problems. When disasters or needs arise in communities or countries far away, the Church encourages members to donate to the global Humanitarian Aid Fund to respond to those needs. Members are then asked to go and serve in their local communities.*



There are lots of ways to make a difference in your own community. Consider what you like to do and what volunteer opportunities you've enjoyed in the past, and prayerfully ponder how you can make a difference. Then do the following:

- Find a need.
- Research local organizations.
- Make a plan.
- Share your experience.

## SEE IF JUSTSERVE IS IN YOUR AREA

JustServe is the volunteerism effort of Latter-day Saint Charities. JustServe provides an easy way for everyone to engage in meaningful community service. Volunteers can find projects sponsored by faith, nonprofit, community, and governmental organizations that fit their talents and abilities on JustServe's platform. Visit our website, [JustServe.org](https://www.justserve.org).



## Our Partners

*We work side by side with partners who align with our mission and have proven successful in their humanitarian efforts. We work with organizations of all sizes, from global nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and government ministries to local nonprofits.*

By partnering with organizations that have sustainable local solutions to local needs, we can ensure that our resources are being used appropriately. By working with us, our partners can increase their impact through our funding and volunteer resources.

**Over 15,000  
Community,  
Regional, and  
Global Partners  
since 1985.**



“

*Latter-day Saints, as with other followers of Jesus Christ, are always looking for ways to help, to lift, and to love others. They who are willing to be called the Lord's people 'are willing to bear one another's burdens, . . . to mourn with those that mourn; . . . and [to] comfort those that stand in need of comfort' [Mosiah 18:8–9]. They truly seek to live the first and second great commandments. When we love God with all our hearts, He turns our hearts to the well-being of others in a beautiful, virtuous cycle.”*

—PRESIDENT RUSSELL M. NELSON