

# 2017 LDS CHARITIES

ANNUAL REPORT





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**Photo:** A woman in Madagascar builds a piece of pottery to sell at a local market to support her family.

# MISSION LETTER

We are amazed at the outpouring of support we have seen this past year in our efforts to relieve suffering and foster self-reliance. As a global charitable organization, we witness firsthand the pressing needs of people all around the world. Foremost in our thoughts are those suffering from the effects of famine in Africa and the Middle East. It's been inspiring to be part of such a tremendous effort to help those affected.

While caring for the poor and needy has always been a tenet of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in 1985 LDS Charities originated from the Church's Ethiopian famine relief efforts. That year Church members were encouraged to go without food and water for two meals and donate the money they would have spent on those meals toward famine relief. The then-six million members raised over 11 million dollars to provide food, shelter, clean water, and medical treatment to those in need. Thirty-two years later, we are engaging in similar efforts on a larger and more sustainable scale. Through efforts with various faith-based and other local and global organizations, LDS Charities provided famine and malnutrition relief to over 1.1 million people in 2017.

In addition to the famine relief efforts, LDS Charities also continues to respond to other emergencies and provide long-term aid through our signature programs. Notable projects include conducting hurricane relief efforts in the U.S. and Caribbean, improving access to clean water for villages in Armenia, training medical professionals in Iraq, strengthening vision care in Colombia, and providing resources for the homeless in the United States.

This report shows examples of the generosity of everyday people who make important contributions to our efforts, both big and small. It also highlights our outstanding partners who work closely with us to perform great work in difficult areas of the world.



  
**SHARON EUBANK**  
 Humanitarian Services  
 LDS Charities

  
**BRUCE MUIR**  
 Emergency Response  
 LDS Charities

  
**KRIS MECHAM**  
 U.S. Community Resources  
 LDS Charities

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

LDS 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. We work alongside faith-based and secular partners to address gaps in current solutions and help people progress toward self-reliance.

## THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES GUIDE OUR WORK:

CARE FOR  
THOSE IN  
GREATEST  
NEED



### CARE FOR THOSE IN GREATEST NEED

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

PROMOTE  
VOLUNTEERISM



### PROMOTE VOLUNTEERISM

Each person has gifts and talents to contribute. Through volunteerism, both those who give service and those who receive service benefit.

INSPIRE  
SELF-  
RELIANCE



### INSPIRE SELF-RELIANCE

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

# WHY WE HELP

Our humanitarian work is based on a desire to follow the example of Jesus Christ in relieving suffering, lifting burdens, and providing hope.



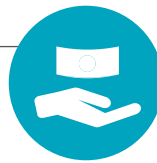
© Kathleen Peterson

# HOW WE WORK



## STEP 1

### Receive funds



- Most of our humanitarian funds come from small donations made by average, everyday members of the LDS faith. Other funds come from donations to LDS Philanthropies.
- One hundred percent of donated funds go toward humanitarian projects. Our funds are spent on the best possible solutions for those in need.

## STEP 2

### Define needs and develop projects



- All needs are identified locally, based on each community's unique situation.
- We select projects that align with our signature programs and our guiding principles—caring for those in greatest need, promoting volunteerism, and inspiring self-reliance.

## STEP 3

### Identify and engage partners



- Our local volunteers and skilled specialists identify and vet success-proven partners who understand local needs, resources, and solutions. Working with these partners, we strengthen each other's abilities to provide long-term solutions.

## STEP 4

### Engage our volunteer network



- We have thousands of congregations throughout the world, and through them we identify and engage local volunteers and skilled specialists who contribute to projects and support our local partners.

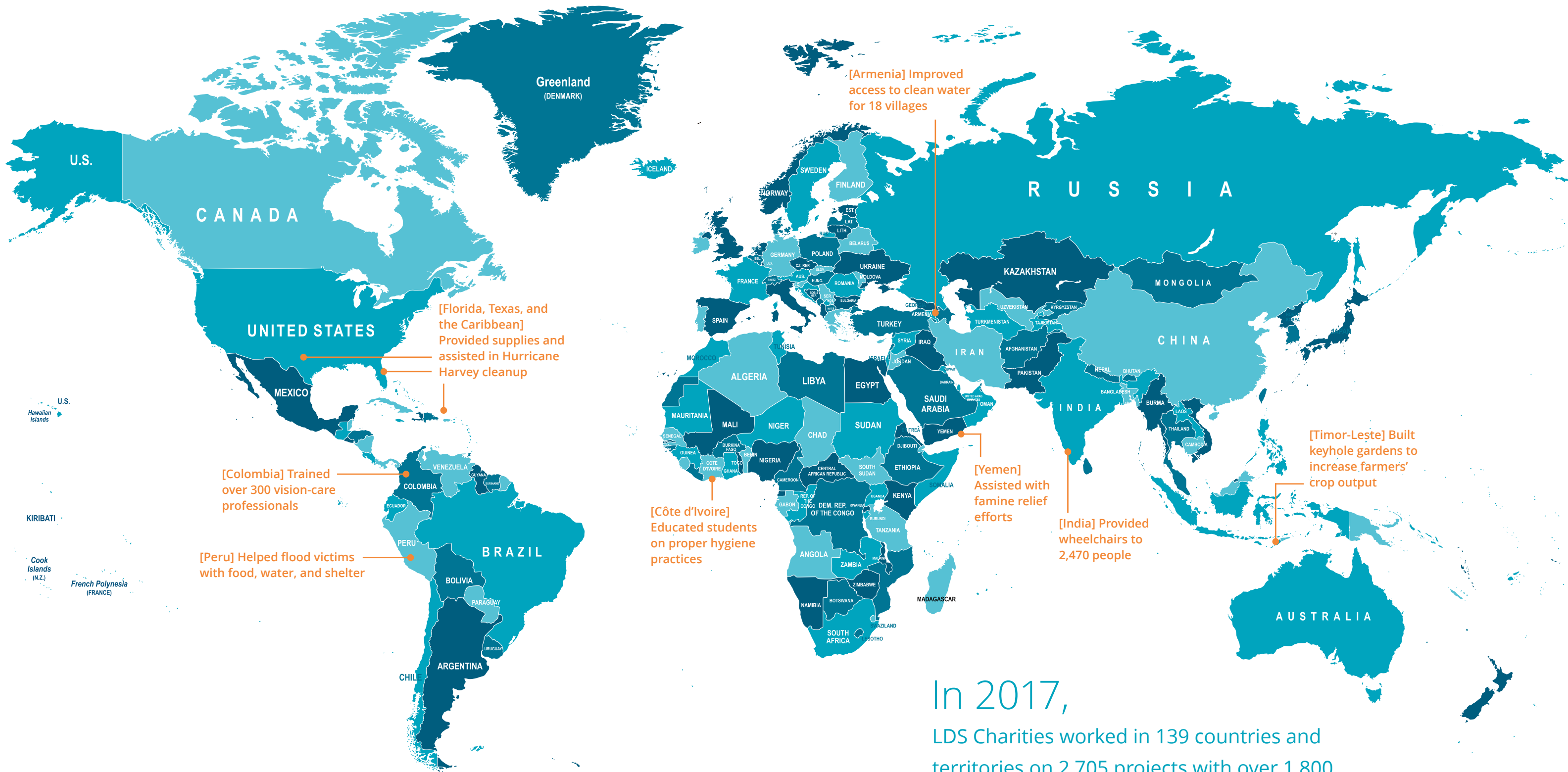
# FUNDING AND DONATIONS

**Since 1985, LDS Charities has provided \$2.07 billion in assistance in 195 countries and territories.**

The funds used to support LDS Charities are gathered by local ecclesiastical leaders and LDS Philanthropies, the organization in charge of fundraising for institutions and programs supported by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Donations of all sizes come from individuals and organizations all over the world.

One hundred percent of the funds donated to LDS Charities go to support humanitarian projects and programs throughout the world wherever needs exist. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints covers all administration costs. To learn more about donating to LDS Charities, visit [give.lds.org/humanitarian](http://give.lds.org/humanitarian).

# WHERE WE WORK



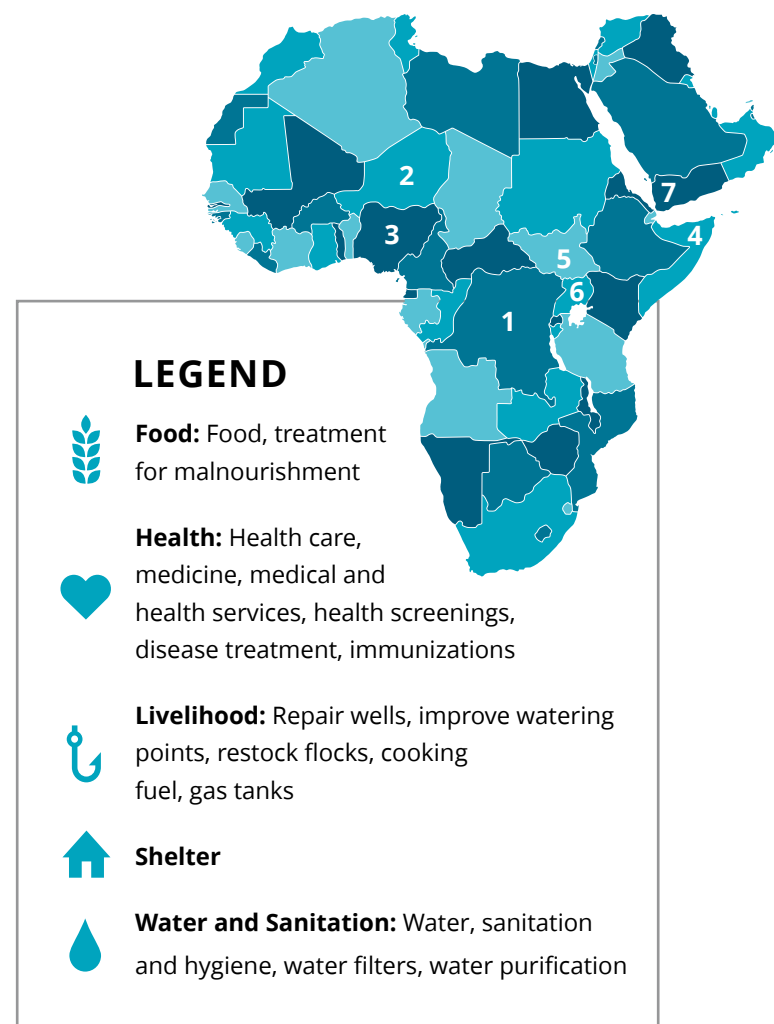
In 2017,  
LDS Charities worked in 139 countries and territories on 2,705 projects with over 1,800 partners **to serve millions of people.**

# WHAT'S NEW

## FAMINE RESPONSE

LDS Charities partnered with other nonprofit and government organizations to address the devastating natural and man-made famines in the Middle East and Africa. Food, water, shelter, and other life-sustaining relief efforts were given to more than 1.1 million people.

Partners include Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), CARE International, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Convoy of Hope, Rahma Relief Foundation, Real Medicine Foundation (RMF), UNICEF USA, World Food Programme (WFP), Save the Children, International Rescue Committee (IRC), and USA for UNHCR.



### 1. DR CONGO



UNICEF: Save the Children:

### 2. NIGER

IRC:



### 3. NIGERIA

CARE: CRS:   
UNICEF:



### 4. SOMALIA



ADRA: UNHCR:   
Convoy of Hope: UNICEF:   
CRS: WFP:   
RMF:

### 5. SOUTH SUDAN



ADRA: Save the Children:   
CRS: UNHCR:   
IRC: WFP:   
RMF:

### 6. UGANDA



CRS:   
Convoy of Hope:   
RMF:

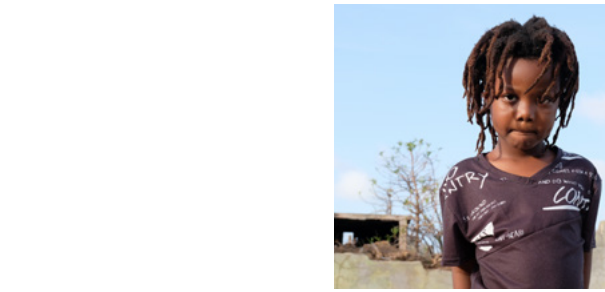
### 7. YEMEN



ADRA: Save the Children:   
CARE: UNHCR:   
Rahma Relief: WFP:

#### PARTNERS





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## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

**"THE WIND WAS BLOWING THE HEAT AWAY** from us. As soon as we got in the car and started to drive down, you could feel it radiating through the windows," Bill Kastner said, describing the raging fires that burned down his home and thousands of other homes in California, United States. Wildfires ravaged many areas of the western United States in 2017, eliciting a need for food, water, clothing, and shelter for those displaced.

LDS Charities responded to these and many other needs from disasters around the world. Mudslides in Sierra Leone killed over 1,000 people and left 3,000 residents homeless. LDS Charities and Development Initiative Programme partnered to provide mattresses, food, and water to those affected by this disaster. LDS Charities also offered support to victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, in the Caribbean islands and the southern United States. When two massive earthquakes struck southern and central Mexico, LDS Charities distributed food, tents, hygiene kits, and other relief supplies.

In addition to supporting victims of natural disasters, we provided relief to those affected by the ongoing famines throughout Africa and the Middle East. This year, we partnered with 11 organizations to carry out 25 different famine relief projects that supplied critical, life-sustaining support to those in need.

175 countries and territories since 1985  
111 projects in 43 countries during 2017

**Left:** A boy rides a bicycle through the mud in Haiti after Hurricane Irma. **Top:** A boy stands on a partially destroyed brick building on the island of Anguilla after Hurricane Irma.







© UNICEF/UN0121166/Bradley



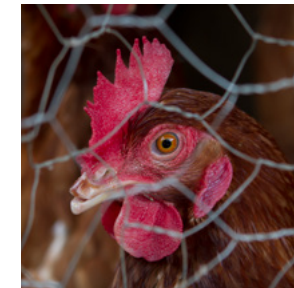
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Top left and bottom: Many people in Haiti were displaced by flooding after Hurricane Irma. Top right: Heavy rain in Sierra Leone triggered a massive mudslide that killed thousands. Right: Volunteers tear up flooring at a home in Texas after Hurricane Harvey.



Emergency response efforts relieve suffering following natural disasters, civil unrest, or famine around the world by providing short-term, life-sustaining resources such as food, water, shelter, clothing, and hygiene supplies.





## BENSON FOOD INITIATIVE

**ANNE WAFULA IS A SMALLHOLDER FARMER** in Kenya, where more than 40 percent of the total population is employed in agriculture. Anne used to spend 200 Kenyan shillings (\$2) every day on food for her family of nine because she couldn't grow enough crops to feed them. Two hundred shillings was a financial burden on Anne's family because it was a significant portion of their family income. In Kenya, the average household spends almost 50 percent of its annual income on food.

With help from LDS Charities, One Acre Fund brought its program to Anne's community. Anne enrolled in the program and received high-quality seeds, fertilizer, and training on improved farming practices. As a result, Anne increased her harvest enough to feed her family and have additional income to pay for her children's schooling.

Since 2015, One Acre Fund and LDS Charities have partnered to improve the lives of East African farmers like Anne. This partnership has helped over 10,000 farmers by providing them with improved seed and fertilizer, training, and post-harvest and market support. These farmers can more easily increase their harvests and work their way out of poverty so that they can create better lives for themselves and their families.

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31 countries and territories since 2006  
196,000 people in 14 countries during 2017  
70 scholarships awarded to scholars in 6 countries

Left: A girl in Guatemala prepares the evening meal using produce her family grew.



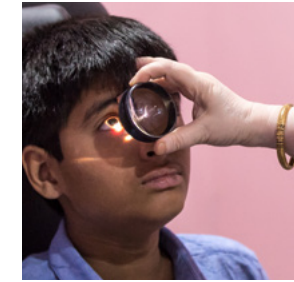


LDS Charities supports community efforts to improve food security through projects in food production, food storage, and nutrition training. We help beneficiaries implement sustainable and economical practices that will improve quality of life, reduce diseases, and increase self-reliance.



Middle right: A woman in Cambodia works in the rice paddy near her home. All other photos: The Benson Food Initiative provides livestock and teaches gardening and cooking techniques to improve food security.





## VISION CARE

**MARY, A WOMAN IN LIBERIA**, developed cataracts that clouded her vision. Without the proper surgery and care, Mary would lose her sight completely. However, Mary received a vision surgery in 2017 that removed one of her cataracts and replaced it with a clear, artificial lens. The lens improved Mary's eyesight. She is now able to cook her own meals and go places on her own, which has given her a renewed sense of independence, confidence, and mobility.

In 2017 LDS Charities donated 1,000 lenses and other vision equipment in Liberia for future surgeries, to help people like Mary. We have participated in similar projects in countries like Romania, Sierra Leone, and India, where we have supported cataract correction in children and adults. We also provide mentoring to local doctors and staff as well as vision care equipment in more than 40 countries.

LDS Charities helps prevent avoidable blindness and provides services for the visually impaired by partnering with global professionals. We also provide professional mentoring, equipment, supplies, and programs to enhance in-country eye care services. Our goal is to give local doctors the tools they need to facilitate vision care in their own countries and to help thousands regain their sight.

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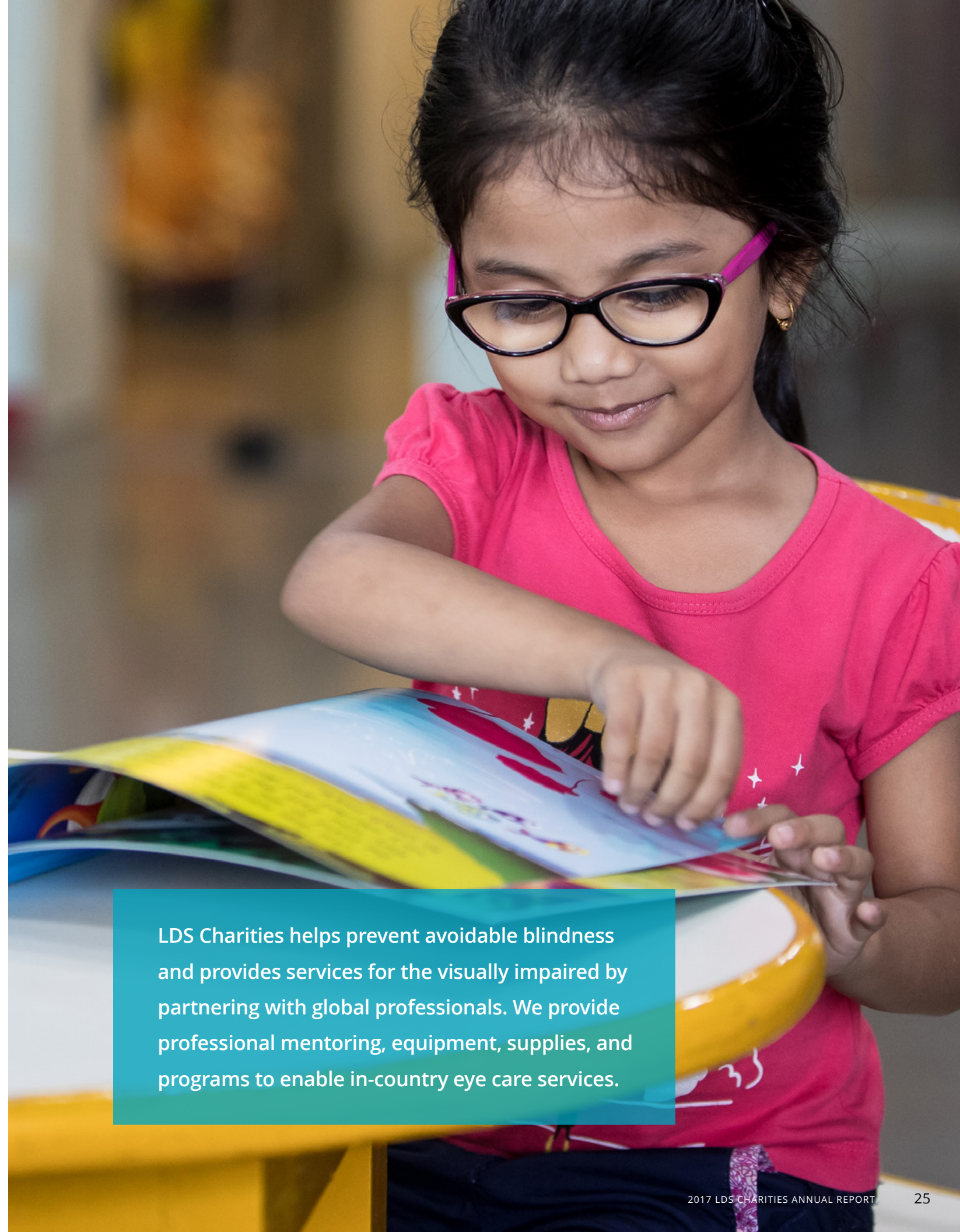
**73 countries and territories since 2003**  
**97,000 people in 40 countries during 2017**

Left: A girl in Cambodia receives an eye examination. Top: A boy in India undergoes an eye examination.





Top: Nurses sit outside of a hospital in Liberia. Bottom left: A nurse guides a patient through an eye examination. Bottom right: A young boy plays with some eye examination equipment. Far right: A young girl in India recently fitted for glasses sits and reads a book.



LDS Charities helps prevent avoidable blindness and provides services for the visually impaired by partnering with global professionals. We provide professional mentoring, equipment, supplies, and programs to enable in-country eye care services.



## MATERNAL AND NEWBORN CARE

**KAFIA HASHIM KANIR IS AN INSTRUCTOR** at the Hawler Medical University College of Nursing in Erbil, Iraq. One day she accompanied her expectant sister to the maternity hospital, and another woman waiting for her appointment suddenly went into labor. A midwife quickly responded and helped the woman through delivery. Kafia stepped in to help and noticed that the newly arrived infant was not breathing. She had previously received training and certification in the Helping Babies Breathe program and quickly put her skills to use to safely resuscitate the baby.

Kafia is one of many trainers that help train and instruct doctors, midwives, and nurses on proper resuscitation techniques.

By providing lifesaving training and equipment for birth attendants and nurses like Kafia, LDS Charities supports the care of newborns, provides the means to resuscitate infants at birth, and improves maternal survival following births. We work with local organizations to initiate train-the-trainer programs for doctors, nurses, and midwives based on nationally recognized curricula including *Helping Babies Breathe*, *Essential Care for Every Baby*, *Essential Care for Small Babies*, and *Helping Mothers Survive*.

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92 countries and territories since 2003  
34,600 trained caregivers in 38 countries during 2017

Left: A nurse in Guatemala holds a practice doll for the *Helping Babies Breathe* program.



## CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

**IN A VILLAGE NEAR FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE**, families used to wait an average of two to three hours each day to fill a five-gallon container with water due to a single slow faucet. Many families had multiple containers to fill at once, which also added to the long waiting time.

In 2017 LDS Charities partnered with the hilltop village to provide two water storage tanks along with several water faucets to improve the process of filling water containers. Today, there is no waiting time for families to fill their water containers. Because the new water system has multiple faucets with faster flow rates, families can fill several water containers in a shorter amount of time. This means that the children of the village have more time to study, read, and focus on their education.

LDS Charities collaborates with communities, local governments, and partner organizations such as Water For People, WaterAid, and Catholic Relief Services to establish sustainable water systems. LDS Charities and our partners also provide training to families about improved hygiene as well as water system maintenance and operation. Through these efforts, communities are empowered to meet their long-term water needs.

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76 countries and territories since 2002  
514,000 people in 25 countries during 2017

Left: A young girl in Guatemala drinks clean water from a new well in her village.





LDS Charities provides communities with clean water sources, improved sanitation facilities, and proper hygiene training to eliminate waterborne diseases. We use materials that are easy for local water committees to maintain.



Left: A group of women in India walk to the nearest well to fetch water. Top left: A young boy takes a bath in clean water. Top right: A young girl in Cambodia washes dishes in clean water. Bottom: A boy drinks water from a pump at a camp for displaced individuals in Sri Lanka.

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## IMMUNIZATION

**DURING A VISIT TO A MEDICAL CLINIC** in Freetown, Sierra Leone, Caryl M. Stern, president and CEO of UNICEF USA, spoke with a local woman holding a baby. The woman told Stern, “I lost my first child to tetanus. He was only days old. I got the [tetanus] vaccination because I came to the clinic with my friend who was getting one. God blessed me with another baby. This one is healthy.”

“There it was,” Stern later explained. “The difference a vaccination campaign can make. It wasn’t just a bunch of numbers. It was an individual woman whose baby would now live.”

Each year 34,000 newborns and numerous mothers die from maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT). In 2017—with the help of partners such as UNICEF—Haiti, Ethiopia, and the Philippines eliminated MNT. Elimination of this disease in many countries represents significant progress, but there are still 15 countries where MNT causes preventable deaths.

LDS Charities works with global immunization partners, such as UNICEF and GAVI, to increase routine vaccinations and reduce the number of lives lost to tetanus as well as many other preventable diseases.

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45 countries and territories since 2003  
Children protected from 5 diseases during 2017

Left: A group of mothers in India wait in a narrow alleyway to get their children immunized.





## WHEELCHAIRS

**WHILE SERVING AS A SOLDIER** for the Cambodian government, Oum Hieng stepped on a landmine and lost both of his legs. In 1994 he received his first wheelchair, which allowed him to move around on his own. Oum then began working as a paint sprayer and spoke tightener at a wheelchair factory in Cambodia that helps LDS Charities distribute wheelchairs. Oum is proud to work at the factory and help provide wheelchairs to people who need them.

LDS Charities helps people like Oum by working with in-country partners to provide quality wheelchairs in line with World Health Organization guidelines. We donate wheelchairs and walking aids to local partner organizations, who fit them to people in need. Partners assess individuals' needs, fit wheelchairs to individuals, and provide training for those who receive wheelchairs. Partners who train and provide tools to local groups for wheelchair repair and maintenance ensure long-term mobility for wheelchair recipients.

LDS Charities recently contracted with Colours 'N Motion to design and manufacture three new wheelchair models that offer extensive adjustability to enable a better fit for each user. The new designs, along with training and tools for repair and maintenance, will help ensure long-term mobility for wheelchair recipients.

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133 countries and territories since 2001  
49,000 people in 41 countries during 2017

Left: Oum Hieng in the factory where he paints and assembles wheelchair frames for LDS Charities.



LDS Charities supports local organizations to improve services for the physically disabled and to provide wheelchairs and walking aids that are suited to individual needs and circumstances.

Top left: A physical therapist teaches a young man how to operate his wheelchair. Top right: Wheelchair wheels wait for assembly. Bottom: A woman in Guatemala cuts out a pattern for a wheelchair. Right: A man in Cambodia builds part of a wheelchair.





© UNICEF/UN012790/e.gorjiev



© WaterAid/AI Shahrir Rupam

# REFUGEE RESPONSE

**MILLIONS OF REFUGEES AROUND THE WORLD** continue to struggle as they are forced to leave their homes because of war, famine, dangerous living conditions, and disease. Raiju Begum was seven months pregnant when her village in Myanmar was attacked and she fled to a refugee camp in Bangladesh. While living in the camp, Raiju had to walk 20 minutes round-trip up and down a hill to collect water. LDS Charities partnered with WaterAid to provide wells within camps in Bangladesh to help refugees like Raiju easily access clean water.

LDS Charities continues to respond to the refugee crisis with the support of many trusted partners like WaterAid. These partners help us provide refugees with sustaining support such as food, clean water, shelter, clothing, and medical care. In addition to providing sustaining support, LDS Charities helps provide shelter and winterize refugee camps throughout the world.

To address the needs of refugees, LDS Charities continues to use a three-pronged approach: immediate relief, long-term aid, and resettlement support. LDS Charities' immediate relief efforts include providing food, water, shelter, and clothing. Long-term support includes assisting camps and communities with clean water, ongoing education for children, and medication and equipment for health clinics. Resettlement support includes helping refugees find employment and receive language training in resettlement countries.

**119 countries and territories since 1985**  
**378 projects in 49 countries during 2017**

Left: A young boy walks along a set of train tracks running through a refugee camp in Greece.  
Top: Raiju fled to Bangladesh while seven months pregnant after her village in Myanmar was attacked.





## COMMUNITY PROJECTS

**IN MOST CASES, COMMUNITY PROBLEMS** are best addressed by utilizing local partners who use proven local solutions. These solutions are implemented through community projects, which are designed, customized, and managed locally to meet everyday needs and to help both families and individuals become increasingly self-reliant. Through these projects, local partners can address a wide variety of community needs.

Marcelina, a young girl in Guatemala, was orphaned at a young age and lives with her grandparents. In February 2017, LDS Charities partnered with a school in Marcelina's community and donated computers to improve the school's teaching capacity and the quality of the students' education. Marcelina and her classmates now have the opportunity to learn and improve skills that will help them achieve future career goals.

Other notable community projects this past year include emergency room training in Ghana, support for disabled individuals in Indonesia, special education training in Guyana, and diabetes treatment and prevention in the Pacific.

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173 countries and territories since 2001  
1,868 projects in 103 countries during 2017

**Left:** Students in Guatemala learn computer skills to improve their chances of getting better jobs when they are older.





Left: Volunteers serve lunch to those in need at St. Vincent de Paul Dining Hall in Salt Lake City, Utah. Top left: A Somali woman holding her child in the doorway of her new home in the U.S. Top right: A Syrian man who attends classes taught by the English Skills Learning Center at the Humanitarian Center.

## U.S. PROJECTS

LDS Charities has always provided support to communities and organizations within the United States, but in 2017 we formed a National Community Resources division to focus on U.S. projects. The new division partners with national and local organizations to address issues such as homelessness, immigrant and refugee resettlement, and other community projects.

Earlier this year, LDS Charities donated \$10 million to local organizations to assist in building additional housing in the Salt Lake Valley for those in greatest need. Homelessness affects many communities and families, and we strive to help those in need elevate their personal circumstances and eventually become self-reliant. LDS Charities also contributed \$5 million to the nine national resettlement agencies that help newly arriving refugees integrate into the United States.

We are committed to supporting refugees and immigrants as they adjust to life in the United States. Immigrant Services provides welcome centers, cultural adaptation classes, and legal counsel to those who have immigrated to the United States. These community-based services and classes provide personalized assistance to immigrants and their families. Refugee Services partners with other agencies to help refugees integrate successfully in key areas such as learning English, acquiring work skills, and building social support.



# LDS CHARITIES' KEY PARTNERS

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Red Cross

Asociación Dominicana de Rehabilitación (ADR)

CARE International

Catholic Relief Services

Centro de Intergración Libre y Solidario de Argentina (CILSA)

Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT)

Convoy of Hope

Fundación Solidaridad

Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)

Himalayan Cataract Project

Instituto Nacional de Rehabilitación

International Medical Corps

International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness

International Rescue Committee

International Society of Wheelchair Professionals (ISWP)

Jhpiego

L V Prasad Eye Institute

Laerdal Global Health

Lions Clubs International Foundation: SightFirst

Motivation

Motivation Romania Foundation

Muslim Aid

One Acre Fund

Orbis International

Rahma Relief

Real Medicine Foundation

Rotary International

Save the Children

Sirindhorn Center

Southern Philippines Medical Center (SPMC)

Survive and Thrive Global Development Alliance

Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)

UCP Wheels for Humanity Indonesia (UCPRUK)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Foundation (Measles and Rubella Initiative)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Water For People

WaterAid

World Food Programme

# GET INVOLVED

**Connect** | [STAY UP-TO-DATE ON WHAT IS HAPPENING](#) and where we are working by following us on Facebook or visiting [LDSCharities.org](#). You can also become an advocate for those in need by sharing information about LDS Charities' efforts.

**Donate** | [WE DEPEND ON YOUR GENEROUS HELP](#) to support our relief efforts and development projects. One hundred percent of your donation to LDS Charities will go to support those with the greatest needs. You can make a donation by visiting [give.lds.org/humanitarian](#).

**Serve** | [CONSIDER THE NEEDS IN YOUR OWN COMMUNITY](#) and what you can do to help. You can find local efforts through websites such as [justserve.org](#). Share your service with us by using [#LDSCharities](#) and [#JustServe](#) in your social media posts.



 **MormonNewsroom**

The DRC is a water-rich country; however, three-quarters of the 50 million people there do not have access to clean water. People spend hours traveling each day collecting water for their families, often from contaminated sources.

 **crazymzungu**

#LDSCharities built a kitchen for a school in Kenya and started a feeding program. On day one of the feeding program, we prepared the meal, 100 liters of beans and 200 liters of rice, and fed 320 happy kids.

 **ADRABangladesh**

Azubar's husband, son, and grandfather were killed as they, Azubar, and her other two sons fled to Bangladesh to survive. On the food distribution day at a Rohingya refugee camp, she cried, "Shukuriah," which means "thank you." Thanks #ADRA network and #LDSCharities for your help.



“We are united in our commitment to  
a higher cause that motivates us to give of  
our substance, time, and energies on behalf  
of our fellow men and women.”

—Jean B. Bingham, Relief Society General President  
(From April 2017 UN “Focus on Faith” panel discussion)

THE CHURCH OF  
JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS



LDS Charities

[LDSCharities.org](https://LDSCharities.org) | 