



**2016 LDS CHARITIES  
ANNUAL REPORT**

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A woman carrying a baby on her back fills a bucket with clean water from a borehole in Africa.  
Cover image: A mother holds her daughter in a refugee camp in France. | [LDSCharities.org](http://LDSCharities.org)



# VISION LETTER



As a global nonprofit, we are privileged to see firsthand the impact of humanitarian work being done throughout the world. We see tremendous need but also an incredible display of compassion and service. Foremost in our thoughts at this time is the global refugee crisis that continued into 2016, where we saw an unprecedented need for support.

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have responded over the past year with a significant increase in monetary donations and the contribution of time and talents. As a result, in 2016 we received more humanitarian donations than ever before and were able to deepen relationships with industry-leading global partners who are making great strides in various areas of need. At the same time, individuals all over the world are deepening their personal commitment to volunteer service in their local communities.

In addition to aiding in the refugee crisis, LDS Charities continues to respond to emergencies and provide long-term aid through our signature programs such as clean water projects, wheelchair provision, maternal and newborn care, vision care, immunization campaigns, food production training, and a variety of local community projects.

The pages of this report demonstrate the generosity of everyday people who make important contributions, both great and small, to meeting needs. This report also highlights our outstanding partners who work closely with us to perform great work in difficult areas of the world.

**BRUCE MUIR**  
*Emergency Response*

**SHARON EUBANK**  
*Humanitarian Services*

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

LDS Charities is founded on three guiding principles. These principles, which are based on our faith in Jesus Christ, empower those in need, without coercion and regardless of individuals' race, religion, or nationality. We work alongside many 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.**



# 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.
- One hundred percent of donated funds go toward humanitarian projects; no overhead expenses are covered by donations. 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 situations.
- 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 our projects and support our local partners.

# FUNDING AND DONATIONS



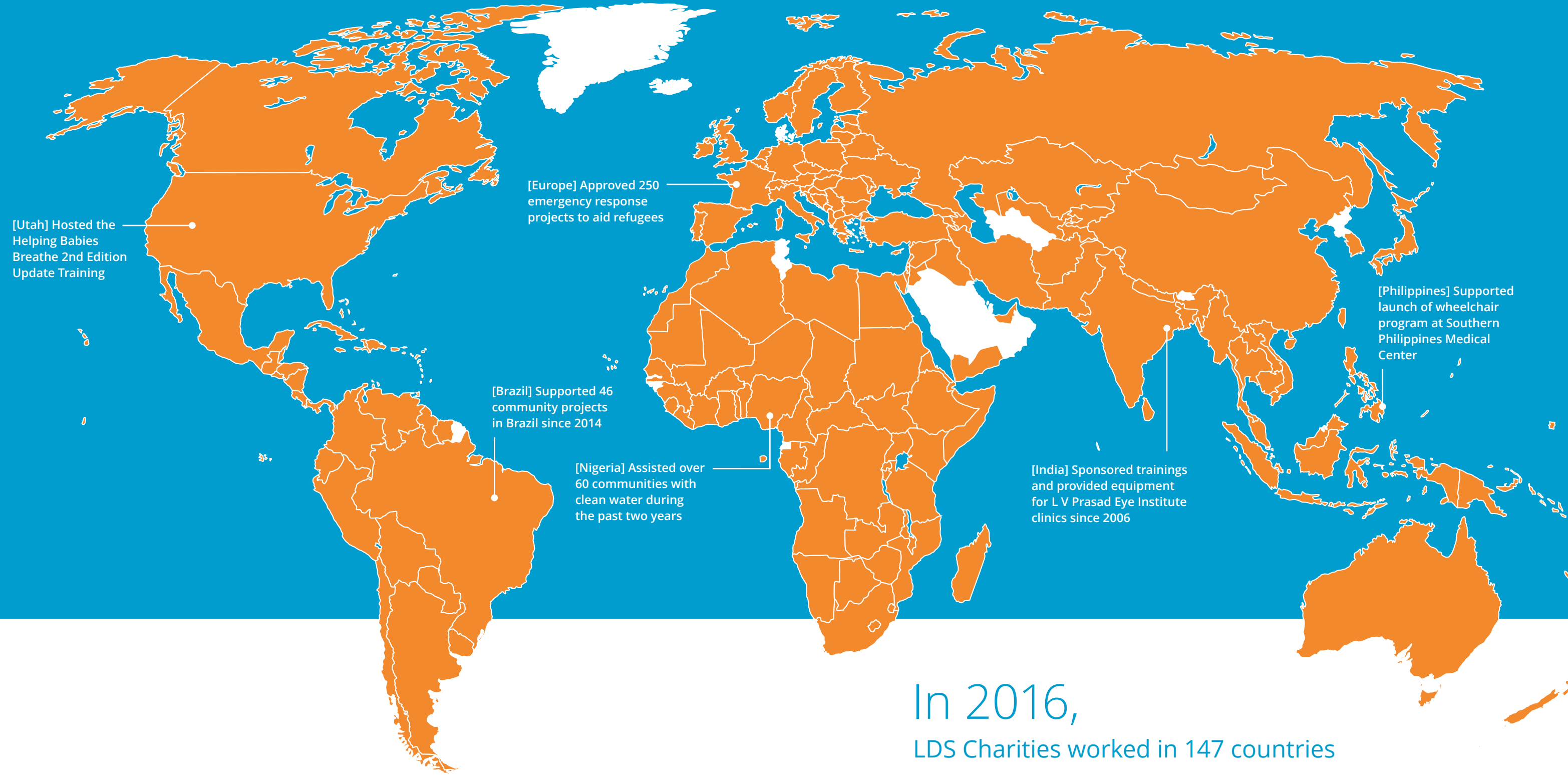
**Since 1985, LDS Charities has provided \$1.89 billion in assistance in 189 countries.**

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 humanitarian projects and programs throughout the world wherever needs exist. To learn more about donating to LDS Charities, visit [give.lds.org/humanitarian](http://give.lds.org/humanitarian).



# WHERE WE WORK



In 2016,  
LDS Charities worked in 147 countries  
on 2,630 projects with over 1,500 partners  
**to serve millions of people.**



# BRIEF HISTORY

Serving those in need has always been a tenet of the LDS faith. Over the years, the LDS Church has sought diverse ways to provide aid, which led to the formation of LDS Charities.



1842

## THE PRINCIPLE OF SERVICE

In 1842, the founder of the LDS Church, Joseph Smith, counseled members "to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to provide for the widow, to dry up the tear of the orphan, [and] to comfort the afflicted, whether in this church, or in any other, or in no church at all."<sup>1</sup>



1936

## WELFARE PROGRAM INTRODUCED

The Church welfare program was created in April 1936 to serve those in need. Heber J. Grant, President of the Church at the time, explained the objectives of this program: "The aim of the Church is to help people help themselves."<sup>2</sup>



1947

## DUTCH POTATO PROJECT

In 1947, Dutch Church members began a welfare project growing potatoes. When they heard news of suffering Church members in Germany, the Dutch decided to donate their harvest to the Germans, despite the fact that they had been enemies during the recent Second World War.



1985

## FAST FOR ETHIOPIAN FAMINE RELIEF

In 1985, a terrible famine struck Ethiopia. As organizations worldwide sent aid, LDS Church members held two separate fasts and donated the money they would have spent on meals to the relief efforts. Members continued to donate to humanitarian efforts, and funds were used for future needs.



1996

## LDS CHARITIES FORMED

In 1996, the LDS Church formalized its relief efforts by creating LDS Charities, a nonprofit organization, to carry out humanitarian work. These early efforts focused on emergency response. It soon formed its first partnerships with other organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and Catholic Relief Services.



2004

## NEW INITIATIVES

In 2004, LDS Charities focused its humanitarian work by starting the wheelchair, clean water and sanitation, vision, and maternal and newborn care initiatives. In 2006, the immunization and Benson food initiatives were added.



2012

## JOINING WITH UNITED NATIONS

In 2012, LDS Charities became a consultative NGO with the United Nations and began coordinating more closely with other United Nations bodies, such as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP).



2016

## GLOBAL REACH

Over the years, LDS Charities has expanded its reach to countries all over the globe. In 1994, LDS Charities had provided assistance in 109 countries. As of 2016, LDS Charities has served in 189 countries.

1. Joseph Smith, *Times and Seasons*, Mar. 15, 1842, 732.  
2. Message from the First Presidency, in Conference Report, Oct. 1936, 3; read by President Heber J. Grant.



# WHAT'S NEW

# 17 goals

## FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In September 2015, governments, international leaders, and nongovernmental organizations from across the world adopted 17 goals to address some of the most pressing global needs. LDS Charities, as a member of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, leverages resources through partnerships to address several of the Sustainable Development Goals that align with LDS Charities initiatives.

### UNITED NATIONS GOAL

Zero Hunger



### LDS CHARITIES GOAL

Home Food Production and Storage

Good Health and Well-Being



Maternal and Newborn Care, Vision, Immunization, and Wheelchairs

Clean Water and Sanitation



Water Systems and Hygiene Training

Partnerships for the Goals



Strengthen Global Partnerships

## STATEMENT ON HUNGER

The World Food Programme (WFP) is leading the effort of Sustainable Development Goal 2—to have a world with zero hunger. The LDS Church joined with other world religions to add our voice to the cause.

In a letter from the LDS Church First Presidency, people everywhere were invited “to open their hearts and minds to this growing need and make resources available to the effort of eliminating hunger where they live.”<sup>1</sup> For more information about what LDS Charities is doing to alleviate hunger, see the Benson Food section on page 20.

1. World Food Programme, “Voices of Faith: Statements from Religious Leaders and Actors” (Inter-religious Engagement for Zero Hunger, June 13, 2016), 20, [www.bread.org/sites/default/files/religious\\_leaders\\_final\\_enlow.pdf](http://www.bread.org/sites/default/files/religious_leaders_final_enlow.pdf).



## REFUGEE EFFORTS

Due to the sharp increase in displaced persons since 2011, LDS Church leaders have encouraged involvement and donations to aid these vulnerable populations. Since 2015, LDS Charities has deepened our partnerships with relief organizations that serve refugees. In 2016, volunteers gave 942,127 hours of service to Church welfare programs, many of which supported refugee causes. This unprecedented involvement has allowed us to reach more people in more countries.



### Immediate Relief

Help for people who are fleeing and need basic survival materials



### Long-term Support

Meeting long-term needs such as education for children and ongoing medical care



### Return and Resettlement

Support for displaced people starting over, either in their home country or a new country





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## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

LDS CHARITIES IS DEDICATED TO RELIEVING the suffering caused by natural disasters, civil unrest, or famine by providing short-term, life-sustaining support to the most vulnerable people.

In 2016, LDS Charities aided victims of earthquakes in Ecuador, Japan, and Italy, as well as those affected by hurricanes and flooding throughout the Caribbean and the southern United States. We also coordinated relief efforts in the Philippines following a devastating typhoon, provided food and water to areas impacted by drought and famine in central and southern Africa, and supplied basic survival materials to refugees worldwide.

PRAKSIS is an organization that, among other initiatives, runs homes for unaccompanied refugee minors in Greece. Without supervision, these children and teens are easily taken advantage of and may become involved in crime. During 2016, PRAKSIS expanded from three homes to over a dozen, with plans to increase to almost two dozen in the coming months. LDS Charities helped fund two of these new homes, including one for victims of human trafficking. Additionally, we donated school kits for incoming children and resources for teachers and mentors to help overcome gaps in education and to help children adjust to their new communities.

173 countries since 1985  
119 projects in 49 countries during 2016

Left: A boy inside his home in Haiti after Hurricane Matthew. Top: A Mormon Helping Hands volunteer helps clear fallen trees.



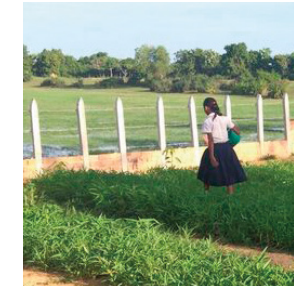




Top and bottom: Mormon Helping Hands volunteers clean up areas affected by disaster. Middle: A truck travels through Haiti after Hurricane Matthew to bring relief supplies. Right: Clean water is brought to Haiti residents after Hurricane Matthew.







# BENSON FOOD INITIATIVE

IN CAMBODIA, a majority of children struggle to get enough food to eat. Because of this, many students drop out of school while many others don't even enroll to begin with.

However, school meal programs help children receive at least one meal a day. LDS Charities works with partners to support these programs. Since 2015, we have been working with the World Food Programme to help primary schools in Cambodia establish a sustainable system for providing meals to students.

In order to create such a system, the schools contract with local farmers for meal ingredients. Using local resources helps the community's economy and provides a consistent source of nutritious vegetables, fruit, and protein. With this partnership, we are working to help students enroll and stay in school.

All over the world, LDS Charities participates in projects like these as we seek to improve the health and well-being of families and communities by creating reliable access to sufficient and nutritious food through local solutions and resources.

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30 countries since 2006  
116,000 people in 12 countries during 2016  
5 scholarships awarded to scholars in 4 countries

Left: A cook prepares a school meal in Cambodia. Top: A girl walks through crops in Cambodia.







## VISION CARE

SHARATH, A YOUNG GIRL IN HYDERABAD, INDIA, was diagnosed with congenital cataracts at just eight months old. Without surgery, she would have impaired vision all her life. This is a common problem in India, where children have an increased risk of developing cataracts because many women are unable to receive the rubella vaccination while expecting. This increased risk poses a need for adequate facilities and trained specialists to treat cataracts.

In 2016, LDS Charities supported construction of a cataract facility at the L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) "Centre of Excellence" in Hyderabad, India. Many children benefitted from the increased capacity of LVPEI's campus, including Sharath. Since the institute was built, Sharath received cataract surgeries in both eyes, free of cost, restoring her sight and allowing her to see her parents' faces clearly for the first time.

L V Prasad Institute asks its patients to pay whatever they can. Some, like Sharath's parents, are unable to spare any of their limited income. Others pay two or three times the cost of the services they require, recognizing that they are funding procedures for others like Sharath.

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.

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72 countries since 2003  
90,000 people in 37 countries during 2016

Left: A woman has her vision assessed at the L V Prasad Institute in Chinnapuram, India.  
Top: A boy receives an eye exam in India.







## MATERNAL AND NEWBORN CARE

THE FIRST FEW MOMENTS OF A BABY'S LIFE are critical to ensure that the baby breathes. Likewise, the proper care of the newborn and the mother are critical for their survival.

By providing lifesaving training and equipment for birth attendants, 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 a train-the-trainer program for doctors, nurses, and midwives based on curricula including *Helping Babies Breathe*, *Essential Care for Every Baby*, *Essential Care for Small Babies*, and *Helping Mothers Survive*.

In 2016, LDS Charities conducted a series of courses in Peru, where 85 physicians, nurses, and midwives were trained, representing 30 organizations. Participants came from around the region and afterward were able to take their new expertise back to their organizations to increase the impact of the training. One medical professional estimated that this training could be used to save nearly 100 babies a year in her area alone.

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88 countries since 2003  
33,000 trained caregivers in 37 countries during 2016

Left: A woman learns skills at a newborn care training in Africa.





Top: An infant care hospital in Tajikistan. Lower right: A woman practices resuscitation at a Helping Babies Breathe training hosted by LDS Charities in Utah, USA.

## BY TRAINING

birth attendants in lifesaving techniques and by donating equipment, LDS Charities supports the care of newborns, provides the means to resuscitate infants at birth, and improves maternal survival.







## CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

TO HELP COMMUNITIES ESTABLISH sustainable water systems, LDS Charities works with local governments and partner organizations to install hardware, provide training, and teach community members about hygiene and water system maintenance and operation. Through these efforts, communities are empowered to meet their long-term water needs.

Accomplishing universal and equitable access to clean water (Sustainable Development Goal 6) requires a united effort. Long-term partnerships between LDS Charities and a variety of organizations, such as Water For People, WaterAid, Catholic Relief Services, and many others, are critical to success.

For example, since 2014, Water For People and LDS Charities have partnered in Malawi to establish sustainable clean water service in the Chikwawa and Blantyre Districts. Many communities in these districts had unhygienic sewage practices and boreholes that weren't functioning. The partnership with Water For People helped communities repair or establish water systems and install household latrines. In 2016 alone, our partnership reached 137 communities and 31 schools. Since 2014, access to clean water across the 1.1 million population of these districts increased from 40 percent to 50 percent. That's over 100,000 individuals who now have access to permanent clean water services, with community management structures in place to maintain that service for generations to come.

**75 countries since 2002**  
**380,000 people in 19 countries during 2016**

**Left:** A woman in Africa carries a bucket of water from a community clean water unit.  
**Top:** An African girl drinks clean water provided by the new clean water system in her town.







© UNICEF/UNIT165927/Noorani



## IMMUNIZATION

LDS CHARITIES WORKS WITH GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION partners to increase routine vaccinations and reduce the number of lives lost to preventable diseases. For the past three years, we've partnered with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF to support The Eliminate Project, a joint fundraising campaign with Kiwanis International that seeks to help eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT). Until recently, 49,000 newborns and numerous mothers died from maternal and neonatal tetanus each year. Consistent focus and funding from The Eliminate Project partners have reduced deaths to 34,000 in 2016. This drop in infant mortality represents significant progress, but there remains much work to be done to save precious lives from this entirely preventable disease.

On average, it costs only \$3 to provide a woman with the series of three tetanus vaccinations needed to protect her and her future newborns during the majority of her childbearing years, yet MNT persists in 18 countries. The monetary support from LDS Charities helps strengthen health systems to ensure delivery of this and other critical immunizations to the women and children who need them.

LDS Charities' support for The Eliminate Project funds important program components including training of medical professionals, education on the need for and availability of immunization, clean delivery promotion, and the tetanus vaccines and their delivery. In 2016, LDS Charities' funding supported Phase 2 of a tetanus campaign in 76 districts of Sudan.

52 countries since 2003  
7 campaigns to eliminate diseases in 6 countries

Left: A health worker gives a shot of tetanus toxoid at a health center in Port Sudan.







## WHEELCHAIRS

IN THE 2016 RIO PARALYMPICS, two athletes rolled up to receive their medals in their LDS Charities–donated wheelchairs. These chairs helped Vietnamese powerlifter Dang Thi Linh Phuong and swimmer Vo Thanh Tung demonstrate their mobility and confidence.

LDS Charities works to provide wheelchairs and walking aids for the physically impaired all around the world. Even more critical than donating chairs, LDS Charities teaches local organizations to fit wheelchairs and assess needs on an individual basis. Ill-fitting wheelchairs pose many health and safety risks.

During 2016, LDS Charities partnered with the Southern Philippines Medical Center (SPMC) to help launch a wheelchair program. In addition to providing wheelchairs, LDS Charities sent specialists to train SPMC’s physical therapists on assessing needs and fitting chairs. After the training, SPMC was able to fit hundreds of people into donated wheelchairs. SPMC has performed so well that it now serves as a model for other Department of Health regional hospitals in the Philippines.

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133 countries since 2001  
55,500 people in 48 countries during 2016

Left: A wheelchair recipient in Africa. Top: A woman receiving a wheelchair in India.







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.



Left: A man smiles with his new wheelchair in India. Top left: A volunteer trainer demonstrates a wheelchair fitting at a training in Kenya. Top right and above: Volunteers assemble wheelchairs in Kenya.







## COMMUNITY PROJECTS

LDS CHARITIES AIMS TO ADDRESS specific local needs by developing local solutions. Community projects are designed, customized, and managed locally to meet a common need and to benefit both families and individuals. This enables support of a wide variety of projects from a small orphanage to a national ministry of education.

One of LDS Charities' important community projects in 2016 was training trauma physicians in Tema, Ghana. In areas like Tema, accidents often lead to death because doctors are not always adequately educated in caring for trauma victims. The visiting physicians trained 36 local professionals, and after gaining this experience, Ghana Health Services trained 40 more professionals. As a follow-up in 2017, trauma surgeons will return to act as mentors, reemphasize the skills taught, and train additional local professionals.

Other notable community projects this past year included improving diabetic foot care in the Marshall Islands and providing special education training to parents and teachers in Guyana.

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165 countries since 2001  
1,848 projects in 107 countries during 2016

Left and top: Children who have benefited from local school projects in Kenya, Africa.







## REFUGEE RESPONSE

AS THE WORLDWIDE REFUGEE CRISIS has worsened in recent years, LDS Charities has responded by developing a three-pronged approach: immediate relief, long-term aid, and resettlement support. LDS Charities' immediate relief efforts include 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. In resettlement countries like the US and Germany, refugees receive employment and language training. Resettlement agencies receive funding, household items, and support from volunteers.

LDS Charities works with many trusted partners who support refugees. For example, during 2016, LDS Charities partnered with Save the Children to create safe areas in refugee camps for families in Greece. These spaces provide a place for children to play and heal from trauma. Through this partnership, we have also helped teach refugee mothers about breastfeeding and proper nutrition.

In October 2015, leaders of the LDS Church released a statement encouraging congregations and individuals to get involved with refugee aid in their communities. This call to action was emphasized in March 2016 with the "I Was a Stranger" effort, which further promoted local involvement. Since then, members worldwide have sought to help to offer kindness and neighborly interest.

107 countries since 1985  
488 projects in 54 countries during 2016

Left: Refugee children play with a soccer ball at a refugee camp in France.  
Top: A refugee man sits in front of a tent.







Over the past two years, LDS Charities has focused particularly on the world-wide refugee crisis. Working with our global and local partners, we have helped bring both immediate and sustained support to refugees throughout the world.

Top right and next page: Volunteers involved in resettlement efforts support refugees in the United States. All other photos: Men, women, and children living in shacks and tents in a refugee camp in France.







## U.S. PROJECTS

Surprising to many, developed countries also have humanitarian needs. Thanks to the generous contributions of time and money by members and friends of the LDS Church, LDS Charities supports many projects in the United States. LDS Charities partners with organizations such as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops,

Feeding America, and the American Red Cross to fight hunger, respond to emergencies, protect the homeless, and offer other forms of much-needed aid.

Gail McGovern of the American Red Cross said this about LDS Charities: "It seems like whenever or wherever there is a major disaster, the LDS

Church is there, helping us with our response. . . . Their volunteers are always ready, willing, and able to step up and help, and they can get them to the site of a disaster in remarkable speed, and that makes all the difference. . . . It's a beautiful thing."<sup>1</sup>

1. Gail McGovern, in "Gail McGovern on Volunteers: American Red Cross," LDSCharities.org.



# 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)

Islamic Relief USA

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

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



# CONNECT AND SHARE



Want to be in the loop about what LDS Charities is doing?  
Follow us on Facebook or visit us online at [LDSCharities.org](https://LDSCharities.org).



[jaimecapener](#)

I love making new friends!!!!  
Meeting new people reminds  
me of how beautiful life is.  
[#IWasAStranger](#)



[denisedeeallen](#)

After two days of volunteering,  
working hard, and making new  
friends, we joined in prayer, then  
headed home. "Inasmuch as ye  
have done it unto one of the least  
of these my brethren, ye have  
done it unto me."—Matthew 25:40  
[#GiveBack](#) [#LDSCharities](#)



[crazymzungu](#)

The children of [#Kenya](#) hold a special  
place in my heart. I love serving  
as a humanitarian missionary for  
[#LDSCharities](#).

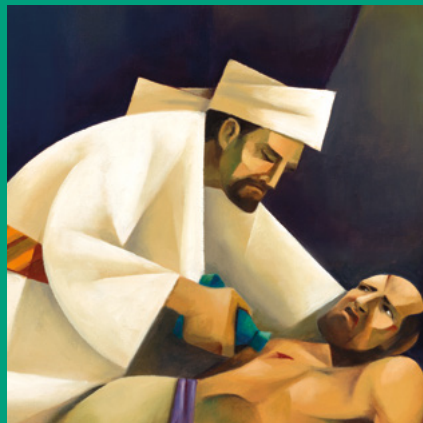
Join the conversation  
by sharing your story of  
service with [#GiveBack](#).

[#LDSCharities](#) [#GiveBack](#) [#IWasAStranger](#)



“As we consider  
the ‘pressing calls’  
of those who  
need our help, let’s  
ask ourselves,  
‘What if *their* story  
were *my* story?’”

—Linda K. Burton  
General Relief Society President  
(From “I Was a Stranger,”  
April 2016 general conference)



LDS Charities

LDSCharities.org | 