In 2015, LDS Charities provided assistance in 136 countries.

Since 1985, LDS Charities has worked with partners worldwide to provide aid to those in need, regardless of culture or religious beliefs. LDS Charities provides emergency assistance when disasters occur. We also provide long-term aid through our signature programs, such as clean water projects, wheelchair provision, maternal and newborn care, vision care, immunization campaigns, and food production training, as well as a variety of local community projects.

We work with government ministries, nongovernmental organizations, and community-based organizations to help millions of people worldwide. Built on the principles 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.

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**EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

Millions of people in the world are affected by natural disasters every year. When disasters occur, LDS Charities provides volunteer labor, food, clothing, medical supplies, and other emergency assistance to relieve the suffering of those in urgent need.

**MATERNAL AND NEWBORN CARE**

Up to 700,000 newborns die of birth asphyxia, and 300,000 mothers die of causes related to childbirth each year. Technical specialists provide lifesaving training and equipment for birth attendants to help resuscitate babies at birth, support the care of newborns, and improve maternal survival following birth.

**BENSON FOOD INITIATIVE**

Millions of people eat only one meal a day because they don’t have enough food. Home food production combined with nutrition training help improve quality of life, reduce disease, and increase self-reliance.

**VISION CARE**

More than 39 million people are blind; millions more have severely limited eyesight. LDS Charities collaborates with local doctors to provide training, diagnose and treat vision problems, and provide equipment for eye examinations and procedures.

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177 projects
56 countries

44,000 people
33 countries

96,000 people
9 countries

500,000 people
33 countries

Cover Image: MYANMAR A midwife is taught how to use a ventilation mask to resuscitate a newborn baby.
Individual areas develop projects in the community to address local needs. LDS Charities works at the local level to find and work with resources to resolve unmet needs in the community.

**COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

**CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**

One billion people suffer from thirst and disease because they lack clean water.

LDS Charities works with partners to help communities establish sustainable solutions for clean water and sanitation, increase their capacity for maintaining water systems, and encourage healthy hygiene.

- **680,000 people**
- **32 countries**

**IMMUNIZATION**

Close to 1.5 million children die every year from diseases that can be prevented by vaccinations.

LDS Charities supports immunization efforts by contributing resources and local volunteers to strengthen health systems, raise awareness, and save lives.

- **12 campaigns**
- **7 countries**

**WHEELCHAIRS**

Nearly 45 million people need wheelchairs but cannot obtain them.

Trained local rehabilitation specialists assess individuals’ mobility needs and provide wheelchairs and other mobility aids to those in need. This greatly increases the recipients’ health, mobility, and self-reliance.

- **52,000 people**
- **40 countries**

**WHEELCHAIRS**

- **1,872 projects**
- **107 countries**

© UNICEF Chad/2015/Manuel Moreno Gonzalez
“LDS Charities is one that really partnered with government agencies in seeing that assistance would reach the intended destination, the Filipino people, especially those who were really affected by the strong typhoon.”

– Libran Nuevas Cabactulan, Philippine Ambassador to the United Nations

More than four million Syrians have fled the country since the outbreak of civil war in 2011. In the past year there has been a significant increase in the number of refugees, with close to a million seeking asylum in Europe.

The LDS Charities emergency response efforts focus on short-term projects intended to sustain life. These include providing food, shelter, medical care, and other immediate needs. Most relief projects are accomplished in partnership with government or trusted nongovernment organizations that are already established in the area.

A current NGO project includes working with Physicians for Human Rights to provide a mobile medical unit. Other global partners include Catholic Relief Services, UNICEF, and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), with whom we are providing food, water, shelter, hygiene kits for arriving refugees, and child trauma care.

WEST BANK
Two young boys smile as they receive warm clothing for the winter donated by LDS Charities, Physicians for Human Rights, and the Palestine Children’s Relief Fund.
“Every day, 17,000 children die of causes that we already know how to prevent. … LDS Charities has heeded [the] call, stepped in to help, and together we are going to get that number of 17,000 down to zero.”

– Leslie Goldman, Vice President of Program and Community Engagement, U.S. Fund for UNICEF

**MATERNAL AND NEWBORN CARE**

Helping Babies Breathe, the neonatal resuscitation program developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and taught all over the world by LDS Charities trainers, continues to be implemented successfully throughout Kyrgyzstan by midwives from the Kyrgyz Alliance of Midwives. LDS Charities and its partners have worked diligently to train doctors, midwives, and nurses to successfully resuscitate babies who are not breathing at birth.

The Kyrgyz Alliance of Midwives trainers have also participated in Helping Mothers Survive, a new program developed by Jhpiego and implemented by LDS Charities. This program is designed to train midwives to save mothers who hemorrhage while giving birth. These midwife trainers now teach other midwives how to follow action plans and instruct both programs using mannequins, the NeoNatalie and the MamaNatalie.

When Helping Babies Breathe and Helping Mothers Survive are successfully implemented, both babies and mothers benefit greatly. LDS Charities looks forward to continuing its partnership with the Kyrgyzstan Ministry of Health, UNICEF, GIZ, UNFPA, and the Kyrgyz Alliance of Midwives to support training programs.

**90 countries since 2003**

44,000 people and 33 countries during 2015

KYRGYZSTAN Midwives learn neonatal resuscitation techniques during a training.
GHANA
A teenage boy smiles as he holds the carrots he grew by following the 4-H Ghana model.

BENSON FOOD INITIATIVE

Many communities in Ghana struggle with inadequate access to food and unemployment, especially among young adults. LDS Charities is partnering with 4-H Ghana to address these issues. In this partnership, 4-H Ghana pairs local adults with youth to help them develop life and livelihood skills through agricultural projects.

The 4-H model, which is implemented worldwide, organizes agricultural clubs in local communities. These clubs provide students with agricultural training and support by teaching effective agricultural practices, improving nutrition and health for participants, and providing opportunities for leadership development. As part of this project, 4-H Ghana organized agricultural clubs in 50 schools, benefiting 1,550 students.

Each youth group determines the types of crops they want to grow and plans their own project with support from local agencies, such as the Ghana Education Service, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and municipal and district assemblies. This connection with local resources provides sustainable change and a support network in years to come.

Muslim Aid loves working with LDS Charities because they share the same values and ideals. Together we are able to assist many more of the poor families in rural communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.”

—Mersija Zulčić, Bosnia Country Coordinator for Muslim Aid

BOSNIA LDS Charities and Muslim Aid helped this resident of Maglaj, Bosnia, to restore his agricultural livelihood after flooding destroyed his farm.
In 2015, LDS Charities continued its partnership with the L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) in Hyderabad, India, by opening four new rural vision centers in three states of South India. The two organizations have worked together since 2007 providing vision care to 160,000 patients in 38 centers sponsored by LDS Charities, including 15,150 patients who were prescribed eyeglasses and 9,400 patients who were referred to secondary and tertiary centers.

LVPEI selects local talent in rural target communities and provides a one-year vision technician training course. The newly trained technicians return to their communities to staff the rural vision centers. Salaries are paid through the sale of eyeglasses.

A primary goal of LDS Charities and LVPEI is to provide vision care to the poor. All initial patient examinations are free, and charges for subsequent treatment are based on ability to pay. More than 50 percent of LVPEI services are provided without charge. Patients who have money for treatment are invited to make a donation to support others’ vision care. This allows LVPEI to meet a much larger need than they would otherwise.

LVPEI vision services are especially important in India, which has the highest rate of blindness in the world. LDS Charities is privileged to contribute to this important work.

“[LDS Charities has] made a significant addition to our work in strengthening our ability to provide high quality primary eye care in [India’s] remotest rural parts and tribal areas.”

– Dr. Gullapalli Rao,
Chairman, L V Prasad Eye Institute
LDS Charities understands the complexities of water and sanitation work, especially as we strive to achieve long-term, continuous water supply and sanitation. Your support and trust in our approach to create generational change is highly valued.”

—Eleanor Allen, CEO, Water For People

Water For People, one of LDS Charities’ clean water partners, and the Guatemalan municipal government supported the construction of new toilets and hand-washing stations at Sibacá 1, a primary school in a rural community outside of Chinique, Guatemala. Now the multi-room schoolhouse is filled with 70 healthy students eager to share the importance of clean hands, safe water, and proper sanitation.

After Water For People announced its involvement with the school, other aid organizations got involved as well. Water improvement became a catalyst for other infrastructure upgrades, greatly multiplying the impact of the project.

Water For People focuses on building community capacity through local policy and maintenance committees. Currently, LDS Charities is supporting Water For People’s work not only in Sibacá but also throughout other areas of Guatemala and in Bolivia, Honduras, and Malawi, helping bring the gift of water to those who need it most. With the Sibacá community’s pride and commitment to sanitation infrastructure, water will keep running, toilets will keep flushing, and hands will keep being washed at this school for many years to come.
Maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) kills approximately 49,000 newborns and a significant number of mothers each year. Due to the nature of the disease, these children die in excruciating pain within days of delivery.

To combat this disease, UNICEF is leading a global maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination initiative. This painful and fatal infectious disease is surprisingly easy to prevent with a series of three tetanus vaccinations that cost just an average of $1.80 per series per woman. The disease has been eliminated in 38 countries as a result of the initiative, but tetanus still remains a lethal threat in 21 other countries.

The impact of LDS Charities’ partnership with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF to support the global elimination of MNT has already been felt in Chad. LDS Charities’ support enabled 1,481,199 women of child-bearing age to be vaccinated in May in 46 health districts, reaching 97 percent of the women targeted.

UNICEF and LDS Charities will continue their efforts to protect women and their future newborns against deadly diseases by supporting vaccination campaigns in countries of need.

“Measles is a fight where we need every partner, especially partners who share with us the passion of taking care of our children and making sure that every Filipino be given a healthy life, and this is where our partnership with LDS Charities comes into place.”
– Janet Garin, Ministry of Health, Philippines
“It is uplifting to see the improvement these wheelchairs made in the lives of the recipients as well as the caregivers. They have become more independent, more productive, happier, and very grateful.”

—Val Bush, LDS Charities’ Representative

LDS Charities partnered with the Laotian Ministry of Health and the Centre of Medical Rehabilitation (CMR) to provide wheelchair assembly training. The CMR is an organization that helps those with disabilities become active participants in their communities. The purpose of the wheelchair workshop was to create work opportunities for individuals with disabilities. 

The wheelchairs for the workshop were imported unassembled, and local workers were employed to assemble them. As a team, the participants spent several hours putting the first wheelchair together, but by the end of the training, participants were able to assemble 10 in one day. At the end of the wheelchair workshop, the participants were awarded a certificate of completion for the training they received.

LDS Charities and trained CMR staff selected recipients to receive the newly assembled wheelchairs, based on criteria including financial need, a prescription from a medical practitioner, a commitment to maintain the wheelchair, and the impact a wheelchair would have on the client’s quality of life. LDS Charities and CMR staff sent the wheelchairs to rehabilitation centers in and around Vientiane, where staff fitted the wheelchairs to the selected recipients.

LAOS
Woman smiles as she learns how to assemble a new wheelchair.

PERU LDS Charities partners with the National Institute of Rehabilitation to provide wheelchair repair training.

WHEELCHAIRS

132 countries since 2001
52,000 people and 40 countries during 2015