

Humanitarian Initiatives



Needs

The Church seeks to “succor the weak, lift up the hands which hang down, and strengthen the feeble knees” through its humanitarian efforts (Doctrine and Covenants 81:5).

Humanitarian efforts are an important part of the Church’s divinely appointed responsibility to care for those in need and can meet a wide range of humanitarian needs throughout the world.



Description

Humanitarian Services, or Latter-day Saint Charities, is the official humanitarian arm of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Projects address needs and priorities identified by areas, provide assistance to individuals and communities affected by disasters, and respond to presiding council priorities.

Projects attend to immediate needs while strengthening beneficiaries to better care for their future needs. Whether providing immediate relief or building capacity and development over time, Church humanitarian efforts seek to create conditions that can lead to self-reliance for individuals and families.



Who is this for?

Latter-day Saint Charities seeks to help those who are most vulnerable, without regard to race, religion, or nationality. Area personnel should consider humanitarian opportunities throughout the entire area, with special focus on individuals and families that are most vulnerable and on the greatest needs that exist. Often, Church humanitarian aid can be used to respond to neglected crises or locations where many organizations may be less willing to assist.



How it works

The Church’s overall humanitarian focus and involvement are overseen by the Presiding Councils of the Church. Humanitarian aid is ultimately provided under the direction of the President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Area Presidencies oversee the development of humanitarian plans, priorities, and strategic focuses for their respective areas with consultation from Church headquarters staff. In their area strategies, areas strive to support the purposes of the Church’s global humanitarian efforts while also addressing specific challenges affecting the population in the area. By identifying local needs and priorities, areas suit humanitarian efforts to the “conditions of the children of men” (Doctrine and Covenants 46:15).

Areas develop and maintain five-year humanitarian strategic plans that focus on a few key priorities in which the Church can make a significant, long-term impact on beneficiaries and communities. Areas also partner with Church headquarters in providing assistance to individuals and communities affected by disasters.



Where to learn more

Contact the welfare and self-reliance manager, or visit [ChurchofJesusChrist.org/serve/caring](https://www.ChurchofJesusChrist.org/serve/caring).

Contact: