

WELFARE SERVICES FACT SHEET—2015

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THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Basic Principles

- As disciples of Jesus Christ, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints strive to follow the Savior’s admonition to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, take in the stranger, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and those in prison (see Matthew 25:35–36).
- The responsibility for each person’s spiritual and temporal well-being rests first upon himself or herself, second upon his or her family, and third upon the Church.
- When members and their families are doing all they can to provide for themselves and still cannot meet their basic needs, they may turn to their bishop for temporary assistance.
- The bishop, as a local minister, is in the best position to determine the nature and quantity of help required to meet the individual’s or family’s specific needs.
- Once a month, members of the Church go without food and drink for two consecutive meals and contribute a fast offering at least equal to the value of the two meals. Bishops then use the fast offerings to care for those in need.
- To assist bishops in helping members become more self-reliant, the Church has established storehouses, farms and ranches, thrift stores, employment centers, and family services offices in many locations. Church members volunteer their time, talents, and skills to do much of the work in these facilities.
- The purpose of Church welfare assistance is to help people to help themselves. Recipients of these resources are given the opportunity to work, to the extent of their ability, for the assistance they receive.
- The Church also sponsors humanitarian relief and development projects around the world that benefit those of other faiths. These projects include emergency relief assistance in times of disaster and programs that strengthen the self-reliance of individuals, families, and communities.
- Hundreds of full-time volunteers with skills and experience in education, agriculture, social work, business, and medicine serve throughout the world to implement these humanitarian projects.

2015 Statistics

Hours of labor donated to Welfare Services related projects	863,344
Training placements	4,950
Total number of:	
Storehouses	130
Home storage centers	100
Farm projects	51
Food and commodity processing facilities	13
Storage and distribution facilities	35
Deseret Industries thrift stores	42
LDS Family Services offices	86

Number of full or part-time Welfare Services volunteers **8,320**

Examples of volunteer assignments

- Improving agricultural and medical practices
- Leading addiction recovery groups
- Supervising welfare projects
- Manage or staff food production and distribution facilities

Emergency Response Projects

The Church responded to 177 disasters (natural and man-made) in 56 countries in 2015. Examples of emergency situations:

Europe	Refugee Crisis
Nepal	Earthquake
Vanuatu	Cyclone
Ukraine	Civil unrest
Ethiopia	Famine

Humanitarian Initiatives

During 2015 humanitarian assistance was provided in 136 countries through the following initiatives:

Clean Water/Sanitation	32 countries	680,000 beneficiaries
Wheelchair	40 countries	52,000 beneficiaries
Vision	33 countries	500,000 beneficiaries
Maternal and Newborn Care	33 countries	44,000 beneficiaries
Benson Food	9 countries	96,000 beneficiaries
Immunization	7 countries	12 campaigns