

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 the individual, second upon the individual’s 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, production projects, 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.

2014 Statistics

Hours of labor donated to Welfare Services projects 7,047,701

Employment and training placements 28,073

Total number of:	
Storehouses	136
Home storage centers	101
Farm projects	51
Food and commodity processing facilities	12
Storage and distribution facilities	35
Employment resource centers	115
Deseret Industries thrift stores	42
LDS Family Services offices	82

Full-time and part-time Welfare Services volunteers 7,216

- Examples of volunteer assignments:
- Managing employment centers
 - Improving agricultural and medical practices
 - Leading addiction recovery groups
 - Supervising welfare projects

Emergency Response Projects

The Church responded to 132 disasters (natural and man-made) in 60 countries in 2014. Examples of emergency situations:

Philippines	Typhoon and earthquake
West Africa	Ebola virus
Ukraine	Civil unrest
Syria	Refugee aid
Tonga	Hurricane

Humanitarian Initiatives

During 2014 humanitarian assistance was provided in 131 countries through the following initiatives:

Clean Water and Sanitation	26 countries	1,000,000 beneficiaries
Wheelchair	48 countries	57,800 beneficiaries
Vision	34 countries	81,600 beneficiaries
Maternal and Newborn Care	42 countries	30,200 beneficiaries
Benson Food	17 countries	24,800 beneficiaries
Immunization	9 countries	9 campaigns

For more information, visit providentliving.org.