



Latter-day Saint Charities

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Contents

Year in Review

- 5 Meaningful Partnerships
- 7 Humanitarian Principles
- 8 Summary of Initiatives
- 10 Global Reach

Life-Sustaining Resources

- 12 Emergency Response
- 15 Clean Water
- 16 Food Security

The Well-Being of Children

- 18 Immunizations
- 19 Maternal and Newborn Care

Refugees and Immigrants

- 21 Refugee and Immigrant Support

Disability Services

- 23 Vision
- 23 Hearing

Community Projects

- 24 United States and Canada
- 24 International

How You Can Help

- 26 JustServe

Church Relief Efforts

- 28 Church Farms and Bishops' Storehouses
- 29 Employment and Education
- 30 Desert Industries
- 32 Family Services
- 33 Self-Reliance Groups

Cover Image: Endah puts a mask on Fatima, her 3-year-old daughter, when they leave their home in Bekasi, West Java. © UNICEF/UNI342540/Arinacs Wilander **This Page:** Women from Amberomena village celebrate the village's new water services. **Back Page:** A girl smiles on the playground of her school in Toumodi-Sakassou of Côte d'Ivoire. © UNICEF/UNI333561/Frank Dejongh



Right Top and Bottom: Volunteers support sewists during a ProjectProtect mask drop-off.



Above: Latter-day Saint Charities works with Project HOPE to send emergency items to China at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

AT LATTER-DAY SAINT CHARITIES, we increased our humanitarian efforts during 2020. With the impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic, we adjusted our focus to meet emerging needs. Thanks to the support of partners and donors, our 2020 COVID-19 response effort included 1,031 projects in 151 countries and territories. Some of these projects entailed

- sending medical and emergency supplies;
- training health care professionals regarding physical, mental, and emotional support for those struggling; and
- adjusting production schedules at Church-owned canneries and food processing plants to meet increasing community needs.

Thanks to the support of partners and donors, our 2020 COVID-19 response effort included 1,031 projects in over 150 countries.

Meaningful Partnerships

Latter-day Saint Charities cherishes partnerships. Here are a few highlights that touch on shared efforts.

PROJECTPROTECT

In a year of adapting to new needs, Latter-day Saint Charities, along with our partners at Intermountain Healthcare and University of Utah Health, embarked on one of the largest volunteerism efforts in Utah since the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Together, we mobilized a force of over 57,000 volunteers to sew over 6 million medical-grade face masks by the end of the initiative. These masks have benefited health care workers and patients and their visitors not only in Utah but in other areas of need, including within the Navajo Nation. *ProjectProtect* became a template for other successful personal protective equipment efforts around the globe.



NAVAJO NATION

For years the Navajo Nation has worked to be self-sufficient and improve essential infrastructure in their communities while improving quality of life. Latter-day Saint Charities has partnered with the community to support these self-reliance efforts with humanitarian relief programs. These programs are self-sustaining and include projects related to clean water, electrical power, and gardening. Some 700 family gardens have been established and are maintained by the residents. The COVID-19 crisis introduced new challenges. To help meet these emerging needs, Latter-day Saint Charities donated food, water, fuel, personal protective equipment, cleaning and household products, and medical supplies. One donation included 16 combined truckloads

of food from the Church's bishops' storehouses and private donations for those in need.

This aid supported members of the Navajo community in their efforts to maintain their way of life and their self-reliance.

BLACK 14 PHILANTHROPY

The Black 14 Philanthropy was founded in 2019 by 11 surviving former members of the 1969 University of Wyoming football team. At the time, these players had been removed from the team for suggesting a peaceful protest of a race-based Church policy in advance of a college football game against Brigham Young University. Working together decades later, Latter-day Saint Charities and the Black 14 Philanthropy united to bring 180 tons of food to nine cities

throughout the United States to help people in need. Latter-day Saint Charities was pleased to partner with the Black 14 Philanthropy not only to serve those in need but to join together in an effort to heal the hurts of the past.



Humanitarian Principles

As an organization sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Latter-day Saint Charities is guided by our commitment to live God's second great commandment: to love our neighbor. We partner with global organizations as they work within an established set of humanitarian principles:

HUMANITY:

Every person deserves a chance to have a happy and productive life.

IMPARTIALITY:

Humanitarian aid must be given solely on the basis of need, giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress and offering assistance without discrimination.

NEUTRALITY:

Neutrality means that a humanitarian worker does not participate in hostilities. Being neutral allows a humanitarian worker access to the people and places where lifesaving assistance is most desperately needed.

INDEPENDENCE:

When we are "independent" in providing humanitarian assistance, it means decisions about helping those in need are made independently from other objectives.

Left: Latter-day Saint Charities partners with the Navajo Nation to drop off needed firewood after a northern Utah windstorm. Right: Two women visit with each other at a home in Argentina. At the core of Latter-day Saint Charities' mission is to inspire individuals to love and serve one another.

2020

SUMMARY OF INITIATIVES



FOOD SECURITY:

Improve the health and well-being of families by supporting interventions that improve food security, sustainable agriculture, and nutrition.

43 countries and territories since 2006

357,378 people in 18 countries and territories during 2020

114 scholarships awarded to scholars in 11 countries and territories



CLEAN WATER:

Improve the health and well-being of families by strengthening the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

77 countries and territories since 2002

593,025 people in 23 countries and territories during 2020



IMMUNIZATION:

Preserve life and protect health, particularly of children, by improving access to immunization services.

48 countries and territories since 2002

10 campaigns to eliminate diseases in developing countries during 2020



MATERNAL AND NEWBORN CARE:

Provide lifesaving training and equipment for birth attendants to help resuscitate babies at birth, support the care of newborns, and improve maternal survival.

94 countries and territories since 2003

16,473 people helped in 9 countries and territories during 2020



REFUGEE RESPONSE:

Offer support to refugees and displaced persons around the world.

124 countries and territories since 1985

294 projects in 50 countries and territories during 2020



VISION CARE:

Improve the quality of life for individuals suffering from the most prevalent causes of vision loss by strengthening provision systems and increasing access to and the quality of basic eye care services.

81 countries and territories since 2003

401,548 people in 17 countries and territories during 2020



INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS:

Support and assist local organizations as they solve problems and meet the needs of their communities.

176 countries and territories since 1985

654 projects in 99 countries and territories during 2020



EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

Relieve suffering following natural disasters, civil unrest, or famine around the world.

179 countries and territories since 1985

1,147 projects in 158 countries and territories during 2020



WHEELCHAIRS:

Improve mobility, health, and educational and economic opportunities for people with physical disabilities.

134 countries and territories since 2001

17,381 people in 16 countries and territories during 2020



U.S. AND CANADA COMMUNITY PROJECTS:

Address issues such as homelessness, immigrant and refugee resettlement, and other concerns.

53 states and provinces during 2020

Global Reach

Through the help of our donors, Latter-day Saint Charities has a global footprint that reaches people of all backgrounds. Since 1985, Latter-day Saint Charities and its affiliates have provided over \$2.5 billion worth of assistance in 199 countries and territories.



Circles show where the most projects were performed. For more details, visit LatterdaySaintCharities.org.

IMPACT IN 2020

3,611 *projects*

160 *countries and territories*

Millions

of people served with over 2,000 partners

OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE

1,031 *projects*

151 *countries and territories*



Left: Hani Mohamed, 24, prepares a meal for her family at her home in Mogadishu, Somalia.



Additionally, thousands of volunteers mobilized to assist those affected by hurricanes, earthquakes, and wildfires in the United States and throughout the globe. These relief efforts have included man-made disasters and other natural calamities.

One such response included aid given after the Port of Beirut blast in Lebanon in August 2020. The event killed some 200 people and displaced at least 80,000 children. Latter-day Saint Charities worked with humanitarian partners to provide food, medical supplies, medical equipment, and support training for health care workers.

No matter the event, Latter-day Saint Charities organizes quickly to provide relief through coordinated efforts with key international partners and local nongovernment and government organizations.

In 2020, Latter-day Saint Charities helped support 1,147 emergency-response projects in 158 countries.



Emergency Response

As the COVID-19 pandemic swept the world in 2020, Latter-day Saint Charities provided support, supplies, and funding in 158 countries around the globe. This support included sending medical and emergency supplies, training health care professionals, raising awareness in communities, and delivering food to some of the most vulnerable people globally.

Additionally, Latter-day Saint Charities partnered with the humanitarian organization Convoy of Hope to provide 30 million meals to feed school children in nine developing countries and areas.

In Somalia, Latter-day Saint Charities partnered with the World Food Programme to provide 35,000 nutritious meals to children and their families at home after their schools closed in response to COVID-19. The food supply lasted for at least five months while schools were closed.



Top: Toky, 7, and his friends wash their hands at the sanitation block in Madagascar. **Bottom Row From Left to Right:** Maria, 5, and Tendo, 4, from Uganda have learned to regularly wash their hands. **Image 2:** "We are cleaner now and we no longer walk far away to fetch water," says Ialisoa, age 7. **Image 3:** Grace, 31, a nurse, standing in front of newly constructed pour-flush toilets, Kakora Dispensary, Nyanghwale District, Tanzania. **Image 4:** Chiswe village children collect clean water from the new water kiosk in Mponela, Malawi. **Image 5:** Lidia serves on a local water committee to ensure her community in Guatemala has access to clean water.

Clean Water

Lidia used to trek five kilometers from her house for water to prepare food, maintain personal hygiene, and wash clothes. Since she and her family relocated to her current city in Guatemala, they have had access to a water system developed with help from Latter-day Saint Charities and Water for People. Lidia even served on the local water committee, which helps ensure continuous access to water for the community.

In 2020, Latter-day Saint Charities participated in 58 clean-water projects and assisted more than 550,000 people in gaining access to clean water.



Food Security



Throughout the last year, with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of those suffering from food insecurity rose to alarming rates. Latter-day Saint Charities has sought to better understand how to mitigate the hunger crisis. We have talked to families around the world as well as key partners that address food security. One such partner is myAgro.

The organization myAgro provides training and opportunities to purchase farming supplies. Through Latter-day Saint Charities' and

Top Left: Maimouna from Senegal is one of more than 300,000 with improved food security due to partnerships between Latter-day Saint Charities and other organizations. **Bottom Left:** One Acre Fund, a partner of Latter-day Saint Charities, is helping farmers diversify their diets and income through additional crop offerings. Wangare Grace from Nyeri, Kenya, grew this cabbage from seed sold to her on credit from One Acre Fund. **Right:** With the help of One Acre Fund and Latter-day Saint Charities, Godfrey of Tanzania grew 40 grevillea trees. He says, "I will use the extra income to pay for my children's schooling."

myAgro's combined efforts, people like Maimouna have opportunities to increase their self-sufficiency to rise out of poverty.

"Now I can afford hospital visits, medicine for the sick ones, and extra food like oil and rice," Maimouna said.

Latter-day Saint Charities participated in 27 food security projects impacting more than 300,000 people like Maimouna in 2020.



THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN



Latter-day Saint Charities seeks to preserve life and protect the health of children. Two important aspects of the well-being of children and families are immunization and maternal and newborn care.

Immunizations

Many childhood diseases are preventable with the proper vaccines. However, in many countries around the world, vaccines are not easily accessible. With our partners, Latter-day Saint Charities seeks to provide immunizations and eliminate diseases where possible.

In 2020, Latter-day Saint Charities focused on improving our ability to provide vaccinations to those who don't have easy access to them. In 2020, Latter-day Saint Charities helped 7,188,356 people in eight countries with vaccinations for diseases such

as diphtheria, influenza, maternal and neonatal tetanus, polio, measles, malaria, rubella, and more.

One of the families helped is Annour Djidda and his three children in Dourbali in Chad. Because the safety of his children is important to him, Annour received special permission from his employer to personally drive his children to see the health care workers and ensure that they receive the measles vaccine needed.

"Measles has killed many children in Dourbali," Annour said. "This is why I

decided to bring my children to the vaccination myself to protect them."

With the help of partners such as UNICEF, WHO, MSF, and the Red Cross and generous donors to Latter-day Saint Charities, we are working to protect children like Annour's all around the world.

In 2020, Latter-day Saint Charities was able to help 7,188,356 people in eight countries.

Maternal and Newborn Care

Currently, the most common factor in maternal and infant death is lack of skilled providers. That's why Latter-day Saint Charities works to provide lifesaving training and equipment for birth attendants so they know how to resuscitate babies at birth and care for newborns and mothers.

In 2020, Latter-day Saint Charities helped train 8,873 caregivers in seven countries. Dr. Mariana Pirvan, from Mioveni, Romania, is one doctor who benefited from these trainings. As a mother and a physician, Dr. Pirvan wanted to do more to improve the

lives of the babies in her community. After attending classes, she was able to set up a training station in her maternity hospital. With her new materials and equipment, Dr. Pirvan is helping mothers and children in her community improve their chances of survival.

In 2020, Latter-day Saint Charities helped train 8,873 caregivers in seven countries.



Top Center: Dr. Mariana Pirvan, from Mioveni, Romania, is caring for the lives of newborns in her community by attending maternal and newborn trainings. Top Right: A mother and her baby at the Primature health center of San-Pédro, in southwest Côte d'Ivoire. Bottom Right: Annour Djidda with his son in Dourbali.



Left: After resettling in the United States with her family, Abril received her high school diploma. She looks forward to a university degree in aeronautical studies.

Refugee and Immigrant Support

In 2020, Latter-day Saint Charities supported millions of refugees around the world who were forced to leave their homes because of war, famine, dangerous living conditions, and disease. For many refugees and displaced people, COVID-19 heightened already very challenging circumstances.

Latter-day Saint Charities and its partners respond to the refugee crisis using a three-pronged approach:

- **IMMEDIATE RELIEF:** providing support to people who are fleeing and need basic survival materials, including food, water, shelter, and clothing
- **LONG-TERM SUPPORT:** meeting long-term needs such as education support for children, medication and equipment for health clinics, and mental health interventions to address the uncertainty and trauma caused by displacement
- **RESETTLEMENT SUPPORT:** helping refugees improve their livelihoods and providing language training for displaced people who are forced to start over

When Abril was 13, she and her family had to flee their home country and settle in America. Abril is one of thousands of refugees or asylees who come to the United States each year.

Despite difficult circumstances, Abril has worked hard to find ways to succeed. By the time she reached 10th grade, she was participating in advanced placement classes at her high school in subjects like English, chemistry, and physics. She also found meaningful ways to give back to the country that opened its doors to her, including completing 180 hours of community service through various organizations.

Abril is just one of many displaced people who deserve a chance at success despite their circumstances. Latter-day Saint Charities collaborates with trusted partners to help refugees obtain the resources they need to thrive and succeed.

In 2020, Latter-day Saint Charities provided funds to 23 agencies to benefit 1,813,072 refugees, internally displaced people, and host community members in 39 countries with emergency food, shelter, water, sanitation, and health support.

In the United States we've supported 8,988 people in resettlement efforts. We also partnered with community organizations and law schools to help over 12,000 immigrants in 2020.



Left Top: Mary says the first thing she saw after her surgery was her eye patch. **Left Bottom:** Mary's father says she's more independent now after cataract surgery. **Right Top:** Before 8-year-old Taonga's cataract surgery, it was painful to be in sunlight. Now that his vision has improved, he looks forward to school and helping his mom in their garden. **Right Bottom:** Starkey Hearing Institute in Zambia uses the WFA® Community-Based Hearing Healthcare model, shown in action here.

In 2020, Latter-day Saint Charities partnered for the first time with hearing organizations, including the Starkey Hearing Foundation.

Vision

At Latter-day Saint Charities, we know that building better futures for people means empowering them enough to rise above their own circumstances.

Ten-year-old Mary from the Neno district in Malawi used to struggle to see the board at school. Because of her cataracts, which limited her vision, children refused to play with her. She felt shy and became isolated.

With the help of Latter-day Saint Charities and our partner Sightsavers, volunteer case finders go into communities to find children like Mary who need vision treatment.

Mary was able to have cataract surgery. "I'm seeing much better than before," she said. "The best thing about surgery is that I can see things more clearly."

Now Mary is independent and outgoing. She is active in her home and tends to her family's goats.

Mary is one of 401,548 beneficiaries who received vision care services in 2020 from Latter-day Saint Charities and our partners in 17 countries.

Hearing

Hearing loss affects over 466 million people worldwide. In 2020, Latter-day Saint Charities partnered for the first time with hearing organizations, including the Starkey Hearing Foundation.

With the Starkey Hearing Foundation, we screened 253 people in Zambia for hearing loss. As part of this screening, 200 people were fitted for and provided with appropriate hearing aids. Most of the people treated at this screening had hearing loss since birth. With their new hearing aids, they were able to hear properly for the first time. Being able to hear opens many doors for them, including greater educational and economic opportunities to benefit themselves and their families.

Moving into 2021, Latter-day Saint Charities is excited to provide more hearing services to those in need.



Across the world, Latter-day Saint Charities works with local organizations to help them solve problems and meet the needs of their own communities. In 2020, Latter-day Saint Charities supported 654 locally managed projects in 99 countries and territories.



United States and Canada

In the United States, Latter-day Saint Charities took part in giving over 105,000 pounds of food to those who'd lost their employment in Orange County, California, due to the unexpected challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The food came from the Church's Bishops' Central Storehouse and was given to local food banks and rescue missions. This donation was part of the Church's overall COVID-19 response, which is among the largest humanitarian response efforts in its history.

International

In mid-August, heavy rainfall caused massive damage to an area in northern Chungcheongbuk, South Korea. The rain devastated houses and roads in the community. In response, Latter-day Saint Charities mobilized local Helping Hands volunteers to clear and clean up damages.

Left: Because of help from partners like Latter-day Saint Charities, The Salvation Army reports it has been able to serve more than 225 million meals in response to the COVID-19 pandemic with innovative programs such as contactless, drive-through, and delivery food pantries.



HOW YOU CAN HELP



Above: Volunteers at St. Vincent de Paul in Phoenix help tutor kids in an after-school program.

In 2020, almost 75,000 volunteers registered to help with nearly 20,000 new projects from more than 2,000 new organizations.

JustServe

JustServe is the volunteer arm of Latter-day Saint Charities, connecting people to service opportunities where they can make a difference in their own communities.

Since JustServe was created in 2012, more than 570,000 volunteers have registered for more than 100,000 projects from nearly 11,000 organizations. In 2020, almost 75,000 volunteers registered to help with nearly 20,000 new projects from more than 2,000 new organizations.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You don't have to travel far to feed the hungry or take in a stranger. There are lots of ways to make a difference in your own community. Join our global humanitarian movement to care for those in need by visiting the Latter-day Saint Charities Volunteer Center at JustServe.org/latterdaysaintcharities. There you can find a project in your community that aligns with one of our causes, and you can work alongside us to alleviate suffering and promote self-reliance for all of God's children.

As you serve, please share your experience. Consider telling your friends and family what you learned, documenting your experience with photos, writing about it in your journal or blog, or posting on social media and tagging JustServe. Consider becoming an advocate for those around you by sharing helpful media.

ANOTHER WAY TO HELP:

Make a donation at LatterdaySaintCharities.org



Top: Volunteers with Build Us H.O.P.E. help provide housing services that eliminate barriers for the homeless and those with disabilities.
Middle: Volunteers in Arizona work together on a garden.
Bottom: Volunteers support athletes during a wheelchair basketball game in Arizona.



CHURCH RELIEF EFFORTS



Far Left: "It's perfect to be outdoors and to be able to enjoy the sunshine and to get a little exercise," said Huong Dye, who brought her children with her to pick peaches at a Church farm this past August. **Bottom Left:** The Bishops' Central Storehouse has been an integral part of supporting large food donations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Church Farms and Bishops' Storehouses

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints takes to heart our charge to care for the poor and those in need. Latter-day Saint Charities is just one small piece of the global work done by the Church to help relieve suffering and foster self-reliance.

The Church maintains 15 farms, 5 canneries, and 110 food distribution centers called bishops' storehouses, all staffed primarily by local volunteers. The Church also has 5 additional processing plants that specialize in meat, milk, bread, grain and pasta, and soap. These facilities help provide assistance to Church members in need and to local community partners.

In 2020, the Church sent over 800 truckloads of food to 380 food banks, homeless shelters, and charitable agencies throughout the U.S. Collectively, these trucks supplied over 26 million meals to those in need.

These truckloads came from several of our 110 bishops' storehouses in the U.S. and Canada. The main warehouse distribution center is located in

Salt Lake City, Utah, with 5 additional regional hubs located in Oregon, California, Indiana, Georgia, and Canada. The food was delivered by 46 dedicated long-haul truck drivers for Deseret Transportation, who drove more than 1.6 million miles during the COVID-19 pandemic. Outside of North America, the Church works with local grocery chains to help provide members in need with food.



The Perpetual Education Fund is a financial resource that helps individuals outside the United States enroll in local education programs to gain employable skills in 75 countries.

Employment and Education

The Perpetual Education Fund is a financial resource that helps individuals outside the United States enroll in local education programs to gain employable skills in 75 countries. Students are given loans to assist in their payments for education and training. Once students graduate and are successfully employed, they repay the loan so that others may benefit from the program. This program is funded through donations from members and other friends. With COVID-19, loan payments and interest charges were suspended to ensure that students would be able to meet their basic needs amid financial hardships caused by the pandemic. By the end of 2020, the new program had helped over 100,000 members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints since the program's inception in 2001.

Where the Perpetual Education Fund helps people outside the United States further their education, Employment Support exists to help those seeking employment in the United States. This help usually happens in person in Employment Resource Centers, but in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all job search resources became available online. These online resources include live workshops to help individuals with interviews, résumés, and other job search skills; forums where individuals can bring their questions to an employment expert; and daily Active Job Search groups that bring fellow job seekers together to share resources and provide support. These resources, paired with one-on-one virtual coaching, have helped serve many affected by the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Deseret Industries



Above: At Deseret Industries, Tanner is learning job skills such as teamwork and communication. His goal is to become a business analyst.
Right: Josselin worked as a teacher in Peru, but when she moved to the U.S., her degree was not recognized. With the help of Deseret Industries, Josselin is working toward becoming a teacher again.

Deseret Industries (DI) is a thrift store, donation center, and job-training facility with 44 locations in the western U.S. Additionally, DI works with Church leaders and community organizations to provide goods and commodities at no cost to those in need locally.

As a job-training program, Deseret Industries employs people in the community looking for help getting started in a new career. DI associates may include those who

- are returning to the workforce,
- have struggled in previous jobs,
- need additional work skills or education,
- lack work experience,
- struggle with poor work habits or lack self-confidence,
- struggle finding career direction, or
- have any other barrier to employment.

While working with DI, associates receive coaching, career direction support, help learning English as a second language, and more. DI also supports associates in paying for certifications, trade school degrees, and other classes and licensures. Associates work with professional master-level counselors to address their career barriers and make plans for the future.

In 2020, 10,911 people participated in the job-training program at Deseret Industries. Despite DI stores being closed for multiple months due to COVID-19, DI's job-training services did not close or stop. Associates continued to work with coaches and development counselors virtually and continued to receive their pay while the stores were closed.

In 2020, 10,911 people participated in the job-training program at Deseret Industries.





Family Services

Family Services assists leaders to help members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints develop emotional self-reliance and overcome obstacles to making and keeping sacred covenants. They provide professional consultation services to leaders and counseling services for members and missionaries.

Additionally, Family Services counselors provide specialized services following critical incidents, such as an earthquake or a global pandemic. Skilled counselors have provided support in response to countless small- and large-scale crises.

In late 2019 and early 2020, the Family Services Emergency Response Council was established, which meant Family Services was ready to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

When COVID-19 started spreading around the world, the Emergency Response Council quickly moved into high gear to develop useful self-help materials and streamline Family Services emergency-response plans and protocols, which include a new urgent-care telesupport intervention.

The Family Services Emergency Response Council, worldwide staff, missionaries, and volunteers have



responded to many critical incidents and natural disasters in 2020. They have assisted hundreds of Church leaders and thousands of members. This includes responding to COVID-19-related distress, suicides, accidental deaths and injuries, illness, fires, earthquakes, hurricanes, and other disasters that impact children, youth, volunteers, members, and leaders worldwide.

Self-Reliance Groups

The Church runs self-reliance groups in 160 countries around the world. These groups focus on helping individuals gain financial security, start a business, plan for educational opportunities, and more. In 2020, the Church ran 13,022 self-reliance groups and helped over 105,690 participants.

Karl Gonzalez from Lipa, Batangas, Philippines, is one such participant who has been helped by a self-reliance group. When Karl started mushroom farming in 2019, he couldn't have predicted that a pandemic would threaten financial and food security for people all over the world in 2020.

He just felt that he should find a more reliable source of income.

Karl attended a local self-reliance course called Starting and Growing My Business and has been able to turn his mushroom garden into a source of income. Throughout 2020, he was able to provide for his family both by growing food for them to eat and by selling food and supplies to others. He also taught his children and neighbors skills for growing food.

Through the Church's Self-Reliance Services program, Karl has been financially secure and had food through a difficult crisis.

The Church runs self-reliance groups in 160 countries around the world. In 2020, the Church ran 13,022 self-reliance groups and helped over 105,690 participants.

Above: A Ghanaian family uses a grinding machine to make flour for cooking.



“[We] truly seek to live the first and second great commandments. When we love God with all our hearts, He turns our hearts to the well-being of others in a beautiful, virtuous cycle.”

President Russell M. Nelson

