

# **OUR RELIEF EFFORTS**

Global Summary Report



God's grace is....expressed through multiple faith-based efforts. By evangelicals at World Relief. By the American Jewish Service. By Hindu temples, and mainline Protestants, Catholic Relief Services, African American Churches, the UNITED SIKHS.

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-President Obama

at the National Prayer Breakfast Service after the Haiti Earthquake in 2010



#### **OUR MISSION**

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Founded in 1999, UNITED SIKHS' mission is to transform, alleviate, educate and protect the lives of underprivileged, individuals and minority communities impacted by disasters, natural or man-made, suffering from hunger, illiteracy, diseases or from violation of civil and human-rights into informed and vibrant members of society by fostering sustainable programs regardless of color, race, religion or creed. Associated with the United Nations Dept. of Public Information, UNITED SIKHS is a global humanitarian charity that advocates for civil and human rights across 10 global chapters located in the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia.

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Yes, it is love that will save our world and our civilization, love even for enemies.

-Martin Luther King Jr.

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# OUR CHAPTERS

Each chapter has its own set of directors, members and volunteer base serving to uphold our three international directorates:

**Sikh Aid** (Disaster Relief Services): Humanitarian action is intended to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity during and after man-made crises and natural disasters, as well as to prevent and strengthen preparedness for when such situations occur.

**International Civil and Human Rights Advocacy** (Legal Aid): ICHRA helps advance the economic, social and spiritual empowerment of minorities and other marginalized groups and individuals in need, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, social status, age or ability. We achieve this by protecting and enforcing the civil and human rights of minorities and marginalized groups.

**Community Education, Empowerment & Development** (CEED): We at UNITED SIKHS believe in empowering individuals and communities in order to help them attain their full potential and become active participants in society. Empowerment occurs largely through education, training and community development projects. UNITED SIKHS aims to encourage people to participate in the decision-making processes in their local community as well as take their place in the international arena.

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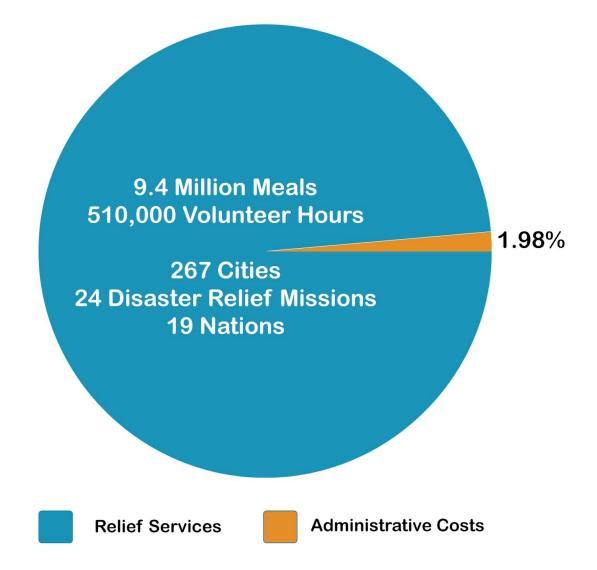




With the help of our generous supporters, we have been able to financially assist families and communities around the world through our programming. The following are just some of our current and completed projects from the last few years.

- 1. COVID-19 Pandemic Global Relief Efforts
- 2. US Census Getting Sikhs Counted for the First Time
- 3. Save Afghan Minorities Campaign
- 4. Project RAAHAT: Punjab Flood Relief
- 5. Hurricane Irma & Harvey Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation
- 6. STARAE Project: Scholarshi[p as a Tool
- 7. Mexico Earthquake Disaster Relief
- 8. Indonesia Earthquake Relief
- 9. Project Daal Roti: Suicide Prevention and Stipend Provisions
- 10. Shillong Legal and Humanitarian Aid: Sikh Community Under Attack
- 11. Rohingya Refugee Crisis: Continuing Man-made Disaster
- 12. Texas Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal H.E.R.O. Fund

VOLUNTEER BASED RELIEF SERVICES VERSUS ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

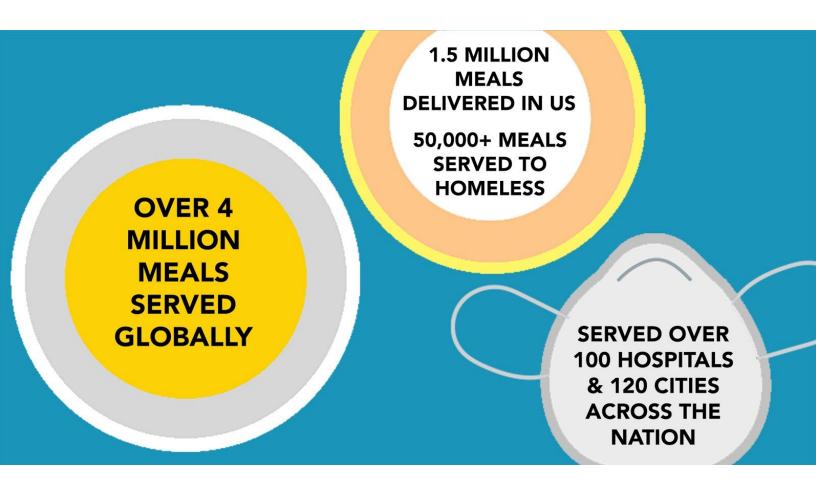


Our work is defined by bringing together an amazing team of volunteers around the globe who represent a diverse array of professional and personal talents. These volunteers are the heart and soul of UNITED SIKHS as evidenced by the graph above which covers the last three years of relief missions. We are able to funnel almost all the money gifted by our kind hearted donors into relief services.

# COVID-19 PANDEMIC GLOBAL RELIEF EFFORTS

The unprecedented global tragedy of Covid-19 has led to the most expansive relief efforts since the founding of UNITED SIKHS in 1997. It started with a request from the New York Office of Emergency Management in March to deliver over 30,000 meals to New York City as the pandemic cast its dark shadow on this global city. We set up an emergency hotline in North America to serve the needs of the most vulnerable from frontline workers, homeless, elderly, poor and at-risk individuals.

We expanded our efforts globally to serve communities from the US to Europe, Australia, Asia and India. Hundreds of volunteers from all walks of life have stepped forward to serve. Generous donors have provided funds and grocery supplies to make our work possible. We are committed to offer basic life affirming needs of countless impacted around the globe by this pandemic. The infographic below represents the scope of these humanitarian efforts.



# US CENSUS 2020 - GETTING EVERY SIKH COUNTED

2020 is a landmark year for Sikhs and the Census. After extensive research, demand and lobbying over the past decade by our legal teams; the Census Bureau has made considerable updates to the race and ethnicity code list. For the first time in United States history the US Census included "Sikh" as a population group within the Asian racial category. With this opportunity to be heard, Sikhs living in the United States now have an opportunity to advocate for their own communities by simply being counted.



#### SAVE AFGHAN MINORITIES CAMPAIGN

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The safety and security of the Afghan Sikhs and Hindu families are paramount amidst terrorist attacks. The Department of State and the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom have documented systemic discrimination against Sikhs and Hindus in Afghanistan. UNITED SIKHS has been advocating for and serving Afghan minorities for many years. We have been providing the following critical services:

- Relocation of families to safe areas.
- Families of those lost and injured have been provided assistance.
- Avenues for Immigration documentation to allow for resettlement being pursued and the necessary resources to obtain such documentation have been put in place.
- Permanent migration to India and Canada.
- Adopted 10 families by providing permanent housing and monthly stipend to each family for 1 year.



#### **PROJECT RAAHAT: PUNJAB FLOOD RELIEF**

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In August 2019, following heavy rains and the release of excess water from the Bhakra Dam, the Sutlej River and its tributaries had inundated villages in several areas of Punjab (Northwest India), causing extensive damage to crops, especially paddy, and homes in low-lying areas. The floods



led to cumulative loss estimated at Rs 1,219.23 crore (12 Billion USD) by government officials.

UNITED SIKHS offered the following relief services in the next few weeks:

- Restored 10,00 acres of land destroyed by flood waters
- Dry ration kits for residents.
- Cattle feed for farmers.
- Home repair, road repair, flood control and household necessities and provisions.
- Medical camps and Medicine supplies.

## HURRICANE IRMA & HARVEY DISASTER RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

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Hurricane Harvey made landfall as a Category 4 storm in Texas in August 2017 and Hurricane Irma made landfall in Florida in September 2017. Hurricane Harvey was the deadliest hurricane in



over a decade and the costliest tropical storm on record . UNITED SIKHS volunteer teams provided emergency relief services in both storms.

- 250,000 Meals served
- 40,000 plus Volunteer Hours
- 50,000 + Medical Supplies delivered
- 500 + Homes rebuilt

#### **STARAE PROJECT: SCHOLARSHIP AS A TOOL**

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The Scholarship as a Tool to Accelerate and Revive Academic Excellence (STARAE) project was started in Punjab in 2004 with an aim to provide free education to underprivileged students in India.

We have sponsored education for underprivileged children of Sultanpuri colony, Delhi, from 2014 till date, by providing books, stationery, uniform, and transport to these students, who otherwise would not be able to attend school.

At present, there are 28 such students of Sikligar Sikh families from Sultanpuri who are sponsored under this project.



## MEXICO EARTHQUAKE DISASTER RELIEF

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The central Mexico earthquake struck on September 9th, 2017 with an estimated magnitude of Mw 7. and extremely strong shaking for about 20 seconds. The areas around the epicenter of the earthquake, including Mexico City, which houses close to 30% of the population of Mexico were devastated.

UNITED SIKHS volunteer team offered these much needed relief services:

- 50,000 meals
- 5000+ Blankets
- 10,000+ Medical Supplies





#### INDONESIA EARTHQUAKE RELIEF: SERVING FAMILIES

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The Donggala region in Indonesia was struck by a series of devastating earthquakes, a tsunami and a volcanic eruption in 2018. We served daily lunch and dinner meals to hundreds of families impacted by these disasters. To help children maintain their education, we donated hundreds of school supplies, books and stationary. Funds collected from the "Feed-a-Family" campaign allowed UNITED SIKHS to adopt three Indonesian villages through the rebuilding phases of the disaster recovery.

## **PROJECT DAAL ROTI: SUICIDE PREVENTION & STIPEND PROVISIONS**

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To help provide support to those at a higher risk of suicide in India, UNITED SIKHS launched the Daal Roti and Farmer Widows Pension programs in 2018, which provided basic household needs; food rations, monthly stipends and mental health counseling. More than a third of the female suicides around the world are committed by Indian women. It is the leading cause of death among young Indian women (15 - 29 years of age). These statistics, coupled with the more than 300,000 farmers and farm worker suicides since 1995, point to an alarming public health crisis across the country. UNITED SIKHS has been providing basic food (Daal Roti) rations on a monthly basis to 100 impacted families. To further help combat farmer suicides, we started providing mental health counseling.



#### SHILLONG LEGAL & HUMANITARIAN AID: SIKH COMMUNITY UNDER ATTACK

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To defend freedom of religion, our legal team continues to advocate for the land rights on behalf of the Sikh community in Punjabi Lane, Shillong which is the capital of the eastern state of Meghalaya. The Sikh community are being forced from the place they have called home for 200 years. Faced with mob violence, illegal imprisonment of minorities, protests and attacks against Sikh homes and businesses, our advocates successfully argued for the release of three young Sikh men who were unlawfully detained by local police during disturbances in summer of 2018. We additionally provided meals and shelter to 350 affected families.



### ROHINGYA REFUGEE CRISIS: CONTINUING MAN-MADE DISASTER

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In collaboration with the United Nations Shelter Cluster, UNITED SIKHS is committed to providing necessary support to the 10,000 refugees who have found safe haven in Naikhogchari, Bangladesh, near the border of Myanmar. The stateless Rohingya minority in Myanmar have been described by the United Nations as "the most persecuted people in the world." The vast majority of Rohingya refugees reaching Bangladesh during this latest crisis are women and children, including newborn babies. Many others are elderly people requiring additional aid and protection. Our teams were able to provide the following relief services:

- Meals Served: 1.05 Million
- Medical Camps: 36,000+ Patients Treated
- Medical Aid Provided: 2,000+ patients
- Health Counselor Program Outreach: 50,000 Refugees
- More than 50 Workshops conducted



# TEXAS DEPUTY SANDEEP SINGH DHALIWAL H.E.R.O. FUND

The HERO Fund was established by UNITED SIKHS in honor of Deputy Sheriff Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal, keeping in line with his vision to help first-responders who are affected in the line of duty and in urgent need of emergency funds. A devoted husband and proud father to three young children, Deputy Dhaliwal was a 10-year veteran of Harris County Sheriff's Office who served as Director of Homeland Security for UNITED SIKHS. He was fatally shot while conducting a traffic stop on Sept. 27, 2019. He proudly served Harris County, Texas, his country and the world as a public servant and humanitarian. In the wake of Hurricanes Harvey and Maria, he led teams of UNITED SIKHS volunteers to provide disaster relief to those in need across Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico.

#### TESTIMONIALS

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"We are grateful. Such acts of care, kindness and generosity make this fight against COVID-19 easier to manage. United Sikhs Organization maybe feeding the bodies of these heroes and more importantly they are fueling their souls and morale. We are grateful."

- Kirk Tamaddon, Chief of Staff, Kaiser Permanentte, West Los Angeles

*"I want to thank the United Sikhs for allowing communities to transcend culture. We are one in the human race. The meals were prepared with love, kindness and compassion."* 

- K. Monique Ullah, CEO/Founder of Girls Set the Ground Rules, Richmond Hill, NY

"One of our staff members overheard a child exclaim with glee 'Yay, hot lunch!' Your generosity is felt throughout the shelter, even among the children."

- Stephanie Salgado, Community Resource Manager, Family Supportive Housing, San Jose, CA

*"We stand by our four pillars of service, dedication, diversity, innovation and integrity. All of which UNITED SIKHS encompassed in their service to our families."* 

- Flore Peralte-Moise, Recreation Coordinator, CAMBA/ The Landing Family Center, East Elmhurst, NY

"We are so very grateful for all your efforts in supporting not only the healthcare workers, but also the whole community through all your generous donations of meals and food pantries." - The clinicians and staff of Priority One Home Health and Hospice, Montclair, CA

"You have made a real difference in the lives of homeless youth we serve." - Nabijah H. Shabazz, Volunteer Manager, Covenant House, Newark, NJ

"Generous organizations like, UNITED SIKHS are the reason our mission-driven health centers continue to operate in vulnerable communities who are struggling the most right now during this global pandemic." - Lori N. Holeman, CEO, Community Health Systems, Inc., Moreno valley, CA

"We rely on the generosity of donors like UNITED SIKHS and are grateful for its support for our work." - Gillian Charleau, Executive Director, People's Path Inc. - Helping the Homeless through Housing, Staten Island, NY

"Thank you for your generous donation of delicious vegetarian meals to the men, women and youth who are struggling to recover from addiction, mental illness, HIV/AIDS, domestic violence and poverty." - Terenna V. Williams, Executive Director, Glory House Recovery Inc., Hempstead, NY 66

Just as faith-based communities show us after a hurricane,

tornado, or earthquake, you (the entire faith community) quickly filled the gaps and leaned into response mode before the federal government could step in. You ramped up donations, delivered food to your at-risk populations, and you educated the masses on how Houses of Worship can still practice their faith at a distance, but together at heart.

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-Federal Emergency Management Agency

Recognizing the COVID-19 Pandemic relief efforts of 7 faith based organizations including UNITED SIKHS

> Learn about our **Be Nirbhau to Serve** Campaign

https://unitedsikhs.givingfuel.com/eoy2020







Volunteers on relief missions in Africa and India