

KEN ISAACS

Vice President, Programs and Government Relations, Samaritan's Purse

Ken Isaacs currently serves as the Vice President of Programs and Government Relations for Samaritan's Purse, a Christian relief organization with activities in over 130 countries worldwide. Founded in 1970, Samaritan's Purse is based in Boone, North Carolina, and has corporate offices in the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia.

Mr. Isaacs began his career as a businessman in Boone, North Carolina. In 1984, he was asked by Samaritan's Purse President, Franklin Graham, to establish a well-drilling project in Ethiopia. After implementing a wide portfolio of successful programs that included providing clean water and other emergency relief for hundreds of thousands of people, Isaacs returned to North Carolina to serve as Samaritan's Purse International Programs Director. Under his leadership, the organization's global presence greatly expanded, and Mr. Isaacs now manages thousands of field staff around the world.

As the International Programs Director for Samaritan's Purse for 20 years, he directed relief efforts in Rwanda during the 1994 genocide, providing care for 1,000 orphans and reestablishing a hospital that served as the main medical service in the country. He established a hospital in Lui, Sudan, at the height of that country's civil war, providing desperately needed medical humanitarian aid to the people of Sudan's Nuba Mountains when they were under siege, and overseeing aid to the National Democratic Alliance of Eastern Sudan. In 2000, he coordinated the Samaritan's Purse's response to devastating floods in Mozambique. He has designed and implemented emergency relief programs in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Bosnia, Cambodia, Honduras, El Salvador, Kosovo, Turkey, and Afghanistan. These efforts have included emergency responses during wars, complex crises, and natural disasters. He has lately lead major humanitarian responses in Japan, Haiti, the Philippines, and in 2014 directed the organizations fight against Ebola.

In 2004 Mr. Isaacs accepted the position of Director of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) within the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), carrying a SCI clearance. Under his direction, OFDA served as the lead agency for U.S. government relief responses to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and 2005 Pakistan earthquake. He oversaw U.S. humanitarian relief efforts in both Darfur and southern Sudan, as well as in Niger and Ethiopia.

Mr. Isaacs has over 27 years' experience working in the relief and development community, has served in dozens of countries, and has traveled to more than 120 countries. He has testified before multiple House and Senate committees, including the full House International Relations Committee, full Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations, and the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. He also speaks at universities, national and international conferences, and numerous media interviews.