The Western Union® Story
Commitment to Community
We believe financial services shouldn’t be the sole domain of the privileged, but a right for everyone.

For more than a century, Western Union has offered fast ways to send money around the globe.

People send money to family in remote villages and urban hubs.

Businesses make international payments to partners and vendors.

And NGOs create change by sending money precisely where it’s needed most.

Western Union Historical Highlights

1851  Founded
1871  Money transfer service introduced
1889  First documented disaster-relief effort
1906  San Francisco earthquake rescue effort
1935  Launched Tele-Fax
1974  Introduced 1st commercial satellite in U.S.
2012  Clinton Global Initiative: pledged to create a product for NGOs
2013  Philippine super-typhoon rescue effort
Western Union Facts

701 million
transactions in 2013

700+
NGO clients

~500 thousand
Agent locations worldwide
(more than Starbucks™ & McDonald’s™ combined)

163
years in business
What We’ve Learned From NGOs

Our community work gives us a lens into the lives of NGO workers.

- You need the efficiency and sophistication of the payment solutions we’ve created for large corporations…and then some.
- You need to make payments globally to partners, vendors and employees.
- You need to respond urgently in times of crisis.

You deserve to know your funds are taking the fastest, most trackable route to those that need it – even when you’re operating in regions without effective financial systems. Or without any banks at all.
Community

The very nature of our business makes us an active member of the global community. This means we come face-to-face with the world’s most urgent challenges.

We’ve participated in grassroots community work since 1889 when our workers braved the massive flood zone in Johnstown, PA.

Since then, we’ve often helped out in times of need – from the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 to the Philippine super-typhoon of 2013.

Through the Western Union Foundation and our community work, we’ve seen the passion and professionalism NGOs bring to bear on the world’s most significant problems.

We make it our mission to help.

The Western Union Company invested $50 million over 5 years to support global economic opportunities, including education tools for more than 1 million students.

The Western Union Foundation has supported 117 disaster relief operations since 2001, granting $12.5 million.

The Western Union Foundation has given more than $96 million to 2,720 NGOs since 2001.
More than 2 billion people have no access to basic banking services.

This limits their opportunity for individual and community growth. It limits their access to vital help in times of crisis.

To further complicate matters, NGOs are also at a financial disadvantage. Harvard Business review says NGOs spend 80% more to track their finances than for-profit multinationals.*

We hope to drive a global movement to close the opportunity gap.

At the 2012 Clinton Global Initiative event, Western Union pledged to create a new financial product to meet the payment needs of NGOs and the people they serve.

Given our massive global reach, we’re positioned to provide what others can’t—the freedom to move money around the world with speed, ease and cost-efficiency.

$2.3 Billion
Funds sent by 700+ NGOs around the world since 2013

Today NGOs around the world are using the WU® NGO GlobalPay platform including:

- OXFAM - UK
- Save the Children - UK
- Amnesty International - UK
- SOS Children’s Villages - Switzerland
- Action Against Hunger - USA
- Ashoka - USA
- Ryan’s Well Foundation - Canada
- Aid Still Required - USA
- Mines Advisory Group - UK
- International Medical Corps - USA

We’re ready to help you.