

OVERVIEW: The Seven U.S. Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Mission

1. God-Centeredness

An excellent short-term mission seeks first God's glory and his kingdom, and is expressed through our:

- Purpose — Centering on God's glory and his ends throughout our entire STM process
- Lives — Sound biblical doctrine, persistent prayer, and godliness in all our thoughts, words, and deeds
- Methods — Wise, biblical, and culturally-appropriate methods which bear spiritual fruit

2. Empowering Partnerships

An excellent short-term mission establishes healthy, interdependent, on-going relationships between sending and receiving partners, and is expressed by:

- Primary focus on intended receptors
- Plans which benefit all participants
- Mutual trust and accountability

3. Mutual Design

An excellent short-term mission collaboratively plans each specific outreach for the benefit of all participants, and is expressed by:

- On-field methods and activities aligned to long-term strategies of the partnership
- Goer-guests' ability to implement their part of the plan
- Host receivers' ability to implement their part of the plan

4. Comprehensive Administration

An excellent short-term mission exhibits integrity through reliable set-up and thorough administration for all participants, and is expressed by:

- Truthfulness in promotion, finances, and reporting results
- Appropriate risk management
- Quality program delivery and support logistics

5. Qualified Leadership

An excellent short-term mission screens, trains, and develops capable leadership for all participants, and is expressed by:

- Character — Spiritually mature servant leadership
- Skills — Prepared, competent, organized, and accountable leadership
- Values — Empowering and equipping leadership

6. Appropriate Training

An excellent short-term mission prepares and equips all participants for the mutually designed outreach, and is expressed by:

- Biblical, appropriate, and timely training
- On-going training and equipping (pre-field, on-field, post-field)
- Qualified trainers

7. Thorough Follow-Up

An excellent short-term mission assures debriefing and appropriate follow-up for all participants, and is expressed by:

- Comprehensive debriefing (pre-field, on-field, post-field)
- On-field re-entry preparation
- Post-field follow-up and evaluation

<http://www.stmstandards.org/standards/>