

Helping *or* Hurting

15

PRINCIPLES TO CONSIDER AND PITFALLS TO
AVOID IN YOUR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY



WEBINAR SERIES

*A collaborative project of the National Church Ministry Initiative and the Applied
Research and Best Practice Initiative of The Christian Alliance for Orphans*

OUTLINE

- 1 FORMING HEALTHY STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**
- 2 PRIORITIZING CHILD, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING**
- 3 PARTICIPATING IN SHORT TERM MISSIONS ETHICALLY AND EFFECTIVELY**

EACH SECTION CONTAINS: Principles, Practices and Questions to Consider

INTRODUCTION



PART 1

FORMING HEALTHY STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

PART 1

FORMING HEALTHY STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

PRINCIPLE #1

Look to align your global investments with the broader vision and current engagements of your church.

Practices:

- Pursue globally what you prioritize locally.
- Choose to work with partners who uphold the highest standards for quality care of children.
- Provide local applications to your global engagements.

PART 1

FORMING HEALTHY STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

PRINCIPLE #2

Ensure potential partner organizations uphold the highest ethical standards for quality of care and organizational integrity.

Practices:

- Ensure partners are registered with local & national authorities
- Thoroughly assess potential partners for child-safe practices
- Gain clarity about a potential partner's financial practices.
- Review qualifications of and training procedures for staff.

PART 1

FORMING HEALTHY STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

PRINCIPLE #3

Support and learn from organizations that prioritize long-term development of communities, not merely short-term dependency upon outside support.

Practices:

- Give cash, material donations, and other resources cautiously and under the guidance of local leaders.
- Prioritize partnering with ministries that multiply their impact by supporting families and communities.
- Learn ways you can support local leader development, increasing the sustainability of ministry.

PART 1

FORMING HEALTHY STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

PRINCIPLE #4

Establish clear expectations for the partnership and mutually agreed upon roles and responsibilities.

Practices:

- Communicate expectations in writing where possible to minimize the risk of miscommunication.
- Communicate expectations and roles to all ministry participants from your church.
- Make the conversation about expectations and roles ongoing, revisiting it over time and across changes in ministry.

PART 1

FORMING HEALTHY STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

PRINCIPLE #5

Learn from partners about how you can empower them to meet needs in their community and context.

Practices:

- Prioritize relationships over projects.
- Follow the partner organization's lead for ways your church can support their local ministry efforts.
- Let the partners be the heroes of your shared ministry.



PART 2

PRIORITIZING CHILD, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

PART 2

PRIORITIZING CHILD, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

PRINCIPLE #1

Make protecting children from harm your first priority.

Practices:

- Ensure your church and any partners have, implement, and regularly review a child protection policy with all staff and volunteers.
- Thoroughly screen all staff and volunteers who interact with children, including a background check.
- Establish reporting mechanisms that encourage individuals to report any suspected maltreatment of children.
- All time volunteers are spending with children should be with the group or family in public spaces.

PART 2

PRIORITIZING CHILD, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

PRINCIPLE #2

Hold a vision for care within family as ideal.

Practices:

- Empower parents to be able to care for their children whenever possible.
- Partner with organizations committed to implementing practices that prioritize permanency in family based care over long-term residential care.
- Address the root causes of vulnerability, not merely the symptoms.

PART 2

PRIORITIZING CHILD, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

PRINCIPLE #3

Ministry with orphaned and vulnerable children should serve to strengthen the child's relationship with his/her primary caregiver.

Practices:

- Support the caregiver as the hero in a child's life, and be willing to take a supporting role.
- Empower caregivers to provide emotional and material support to the children, in an effort to reinforce the long-term relationship.
- Caregivers must feel empowered to set appropriate boundaries.
- Limit a child's individual contact with visitors to preserve his or her ability to attach to caregivers.

PART 2

PRIORITIZING CHILD, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

PRINCIPLE #4

Learn about the role attachment and trauma can play for vulnerable children, and ensure you take these into consideration when planning your ministry.

Practices:

- Both children and visitors need to know the parameters around acceptable behavior before interaction takes place.
- Visits should only take place with children three years of age and older.
- Routines and intimate moments are for long-term caregivers only.

PART 2

PRIORITIZING CHILD, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

Practices (*cont.*):

- Consider how often volunteers are coming and going; the repeated making and breaking of attachment bonds with successive volunteers is damaging.
- Encourage children to seek physical affection from their caregivers instead of volunteers.
- Provide trauma and attachment training to all staff and volunteers prior to interacting with orphaned and vulnerable children.

PART 2

PRIORITIZING CHILD, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

PRINCIPLE #5

Consider the lasting impact sharing any photos or stories could have on the life of the child.

Practices:

- Images or stories featuring orphans and vulnerable children should only be shared with great caution.
- Consider not allowing phones or cameras for a period of days (or at all) during a trip.
- Only post or say what you would share in front of the child or caregiver.
- All in-person boundaries (i.e. never being alone with a child) extend to social media and any contact after a trip.

The background is a dark teal color with a subtle, semi-transparent image of a globe and a magnifying glass. The globe is positioned in the center, and the magnifying glass is on the left side. A scale with numbers is visible at the top of the globe. The text 'PART 3' is centered in a white box.

PART 3

PARTICIPATING IN SHORT TERM MISSIONS ETHICALLY AND EFFECTIVELY

PART 3

PARTICIPATING IN SHORT TERM MISSIONS ETHICALLY AND EFFECTIVELY

PRINCIPLE #1

Establish appropriate expectations between volunteers, team leaders and hosts prior to the trip.

Practices:

- Assist volunteers in identifying their motivations and expectations prior to the trip, and modifying them to fit the framework of what is actually healthy and helpful.
- Have pre-field conversations with participants and hosts about realistic goals for the trip. Identify what would make it a “win”.
- Communicate in writing with host partners prior to the trip.

PART 3

PARTICIPATING IN SHORT TERM MISSIONS ETHICALLY AND EFFECTIVELY

PRINCIPLE #2

Educate volunteers regarding culture, poverty, charity and care for orphans and vulnerable children.

Practices:

- Include local leaders in the development and teaching of the training.
- Training needs to occur pre & on-field prior to proximity to children.
- Inform participants that a short-term trip is not meant to fill their emotional needs.
- Cash and gifts need to be considered with caution in order to avoid creating a dependency.
- Communicate that short-term trips are not meant to fix or fund anything.

PART 3

PARTICIPATING IN SHORT TERM MISSIONS ETHICALLY AND EFFECTIVELY

PRINCIPLE #3

Prioritize listening, learning and building relationships over accomplishing tasks.

Practices:

- Consider reframing the trip as a service learning trip, advocacy trip, or another term that communicates a focus on learning before serving.
- Short-term mission trips are best utilized in the context of ongoing partnership.
- Reframe the purpose of the trip for potential participants.

PART 3

PARTICIPATING IN SHORT TERM MISSIONS ETHICALLY AND EFFECTIVELY

PRINCIPLE #4

Design elements of the trip around what is best for the long-term development of children, families, and the community, not the short-term experience of the visitors.

Practices:

- Remember we serve people, not projects.
- Align trip objectives with on-going local ministry.
- As opposed to limiting interaction to one family or program, consider activities that benefit the entire community.
- Whenever possible, make use of skills visitors have that may be helpful, as opposed to engaging in tasks that could be completed by local workers who would value employment.

PART 3

PARTICIPATING IN SHORT TERM MISSIONS ETHICALLY AND EFFECTIVELY

PRINCIPLE #5

Measure effectiveness of trip based on long-term impact on both the participants and members of the host community.

Practices:

- Prioritize long-term impact, not short-term experience.
- Often, the most powerful outcomes of an STM trip occur after the participant returns home.
- Evaluation, of both programs and volunteers, has the potential to help individuals, teams, and organizations learn and develop as they seek to improve care for orphans and vulnerable children.

QUESTIONS

Next Steps

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