

## Best Practices: Child Community Outreach

### Purpose

Provide an interactive outreach within the church community that facilitates an opportunity to build relationships and draw people from the local community into the church.

### Pray

Pray for unity amongst the US and international leaders. Pray for soft hearts while you train, prepare for and implement a child community outreach.

### Plan

- Design activity stations: Create your own activities or as WO for suggestions.
  - Be sensitive that each activity needs to be replicable by the international church for the future.
  - Be purposeful to find Scripture that can be incorporated into the event. (i.e. create a puppet show that tells a meaningful Bible story.)
- Communicate the activity stations to the international church and ask if they will be well received.
- Ask World Orphans international staff to work with the international church to form a team of internationals to co-lead activities (when possible).
  - Ideally, the international leaders will have adequate English skills to understand and communicate the basics of each activity.
- Plan to have one interpreter and/or international leader per activity. Add cost to the budget.
- Determine the supplies needed for each activity. Be prepared to leave the supplies for the international church to use for future events.
  - Consider whether it is better to purchase supplies in the US or in the host country.
  - Buy more supplies than needed in case there are more children than anticipated.
  - Be aware that supplies may break and need to be replaced.
- Practice running the outreach at home before the trip. Train each team member thoroughly.
  - Designate one US team member to visit with on-lookers (moms and other adults) to engage them and help them feel welcomed at the church.

### Participate

- Set-up activity stations alongside the international leaders about an hour before the outreach.
  - Set-up chairs where on-lookers can watch and converse throughout the event.
  - Explain the activity stations to international leaders/interpreters so that they can explain and lead the activities for the kids.
- Gather all team leaders and pray and start the event with prayer.
- Facilitate activities.
  - Pass the torch to the international leaders as much as possible. Encourage them to lead the activities so that the US team members can function in a supportive role and ultimately the church shines.
  - Be sensitive and accommodate children with special needs or physical limitations.
- Bring closure to the event by focusing attention on the international church and the Gospel.
- Debrief with the international leaders and US team. Take notes to share with future teams and World Orphans in the post-trip debrief.
  - Ask questions like: What went well? What was challenging? What was impacting? Do you have a story from the day? What can we improve?

**Post-Trip:** Communicate post-event debriefing notes with World Orphans.