



## BEHAVIOR PROTOCOL FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY

Although the inherent nature of travel to a foreign country makes it impossible to guarantee anyone's safety, know that mitigating risk is our top priority. The following general security behavior protocols are in place to reduce risk to you and the group while you are traveling with Living Water.

### 1. NEVER BE OFF THE FACILITY PROVIDED BY LIVING WATER FOR TRIP ACCOMMODATIONS WITHOUT A STAFF ESCORT.

Facilities include the compound or hotel where you are staying overnight, the drilling and training locations within the selected community worksite, and transportation provided. Therefore:

- » Do not leave your hotel/compound.
- » Do not go jogging.
- » Always travel as a group.
- » Do not walk around the selected community by yourself.
- » Do not leave the transport vehicle without staff escort.
- » Do not linger near gathering groups of people (gawking, political demonstrations, etc.)

Social and political unrest, governmental conflict or even curiosities such as accidents, can lead to volatile gatherings of people that increase our risk. In areas influenced by political or gang activity, a person off the Living Water compound or beyond the protection of our staff, may inadvertently find himself or herself in a high risk territory that is forbidden even though there is no apparent boundary. This puts you, the team, and our staff at additional risk.

### 2. DO NOT BE CONSPICUOUS WITH YOUR PROPERTY.

Any display of foreign wealth (which may be just a few dollars or even costume jewelry) presents a target for crime. Therefore:

- » Do not wear jewelry.
- » Do not carry large amounts of cash.
- » Do not make cash visible.
- » Do not display electronic hand-held devices such as cell phones and tablets.
- » Do not leave valuables unattended.
- » Keep your passport secure.

If you are confronted by a threatening person or group demanding money or valuables, do not resist. Things can be replaced, and we will assist with obtaining another passport. Your personal safety is our top concern.

### **3. DO NOT ENGAGE IN HIGH RISK ACTIVITIES.**

Some activities are inherently risky for injury even in your own country. Traveling in a foreign country is not the time to take on these additional risks. Therefore:

- » Do not swim in the ocean.
- » Do not go horseback riding.
- » Do not ride on motorcycles or other open vehicles.
- » Do not engage in any other high-risk physical activities.

Injury to self requires medical care in unknown facilities and unpredictable medical care. Moreover, an injury to an individual trip member will jeopardize the work of the entire group.

### **4. UNDERSTAND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES.**

Although our culture may be very open to certain practices and behaviors, in the areas where we work those same practices can be affiliated with gang culture. In areas where gang activities and social unrest influence our work, Living Water staff and volunteers are often accepted by controlling powers because we have identified ourselves as Christians with a particular purpose that benefits families and communities, including their own. However, in these cultures, Christians are often identified by not smoking, not consuming alcohol, and not marking their bodies. Therefore:

- » Do not consume alcohol.
- » Do not smoke.
- » Remove or cover piercing jewelry.
- » Cover tattoos.

(If tattoos or piercings cannot be covered, you must check with the Trips Department at the LWI office in Houston before registering for a trip.)

Some of these behaviors may indicate that you are not part of the specifically accepted group, undermining the standing our staff has in the community and potentially subjecting you to gang or political activity.

### **5. AVOID PERSONAL INTERACTIONS WITHOUT PROPER INTRODUCTIONS.**

Local church and community leaders understand the social contexts of their environment. They have invited Living Water's national staff, who are in-turn hosting North American visitors. They value the cross-cultural interaction with our volunteers and are eager to introduce us to the community members involved in our shared work. However, our presence often causes curiosity among others not associated with the ministry. Therefore:

- » Do not initiate social contact with people (especially young males) who may hang around the edges of the work area. These may be "spotters" who are keeping an eye on the behavior of our group.
- » Always work through your in-country host to interpret unexpected interactions.
- » Ask in-country hosts to initiate any desired introductions.

We always want to show respect. Verbal witnessing to people with whom you have not been introduced is best handled by our in-country staff and local church leaders who have the time to build trust relationships. Your direct interaction, while well intentioned, may be misinterpreted and put you and the group at risk.

## **6. ALWAYS ADHERE TO VEHICLE SAFETY PROCEDURES.**

Living Water only utilizes trained drivers and maintains its equipment to enhance safety. Yet the road environment often contains less trained operators, faulty equipment, pedestrians, open vehicles, animals, etc. which can produce unanticipated and potentially dangerous results.

Therefore:

- » Always wear your seatbelt while in a vehicle.
- » Never ride in the back of a truck. Note: the only exception would be to get drilling water from a local river. However, you must have permission from our staff.
- » Avoid the highway after dark. Although there may be times when our staff must stay behind at the drill site, trip participants must not plan to participate in this activity.
- » Never drive any vehicle. In some countries, the law provides that any driver involved in a roadway incident be incarcerated, regardless of fault, until the incident is investigated.

## **7. ALWAYS ADHERE TO WORKSITE SAFETY PROCEDURES.**

Drilling wells and rehabilitating pumps require the use of heavy tools and mechanized equipment. The areas of the body most exposed to injury are the head, hands, and feet. Therefore:

- » Always wear a provided hard hat while at or near a work site.
- » Bring and wear suitable work gloves and appropriate footwear.
- » Wear eye and ear protection when provided.
- » Follow all safety guidelines covered by LWI staff during the safety briefing.

## **8. MAINTAIN YOUR PERSONAL HEALTH.**

If you were to become sick on a trip, it would not only greatly impact your own experience, but could possibly impact the entire team. Therefore:

- » Stay hydrated.
- » Always use purified water provided by LWI for both drinking and brushing your teeth.
- » Wash your hands regularly, especially before meals.
- » Only eat food prepared or approved by our staff.
- » Do not touch or feed dogs, cats, or any other animals.
- » Check with your medical provider about immunizations.
- » Take with you all required personal medications.

## **FINAL NOTE**

The information provided here is intended as a summary for potential risk and our requirements to mitigate those risks while on your trip. You must understand that unexpected events may occur, and we remind you to always follow the directives and instructions of our in-country staff members at all times, as your safety and security are their top priority.