



Manual and
Guidelines
Field of Dreams, Uganda



Welcome!

We are excited you are joining us to be a part of a short-term trip in Uganda! Hopefully this manual will help answer many common questions regarding your stay. Please take the time to read it thoroughly. We have compiled this information to help prepare you for our upcoming adventures together. This manual will also help you to understand SMI's expectations for our team members while serving in Uganda. We want you to have a wonderful, life changing time while serving with Show Mercy International.

About Show Mercy International

Show Mercy International (SMI) was founded in 2004 by Mike and Lori Salley. SMI is a grass roots organization made up of ordinary people who are passionate about living life on purpose. Together, we have heard the cry of injustice and are determined to make a difference. SMI demonstrates the love of God in practical ways such as providing for orphaned and abandoned children, food, education, clothing, clean water, training, and medical care to the hurting people in Uganda. We aim to encourage each child and family to believe they are created for a special purpose in this life. While the actions of our ministry include providing for the many physical needs, our ultimate goal is to point them to a personal relationship with Jesus who is their ultimate, most consistent and best source of provision.

Show Mercy International's mission is to MOBILIZE, INSPIRE and EMPOWER individuals all over the world to live life on purpose while reaching out in love.

Through short- and long-term mission opportunities, teams have the opportunity to demonstrate love to the orphaned, neglected and abused children in our SMI programs. Our goal is to help them believe that with God ALL things are POSSIBLE!

Show Mercy is passionate about helping unlock both team members and the Ugandan people's full potential. During our SMI trips, we spend time with team members encouraging them about the Father heart of God and his incredible plans and purposes for their lives. We love to challenge people to step past their "chicken line" and overcome the fears which hinder so many from reaching their full potential. There are many opportunities to live on purpose while on a short-term team with Show Mercy. Some of these activities will be determined by whether you bring your own team leader or have our team in Uganda lead. However, the values will be the same. Please visit our website for more information. www.showmercy.org.

Donations

Once you have applied for the trip and been approved, it might be time to begin fundraising if necessary. We actually encourage you give others an opportunity to sow into what God is doing through Show Mercy by supporting you to come and help fulfill the mission even if you don't need the finances. It helps spread the word about Show Mercy and gets more people involved. The more people involved the more lives that can be impacted and transformed.

We will set up an account for you through Manage Missions website and you can set up a profile for others to donate towards your trip expenses. Donors can also write checks made out to "Show Mercy International" and mail them to PO Box 1003 Port Gibson, MS 39150. They can either write your name in the memo section of the check or include a note designating the donation to your trip. Donors may also make a one time or monthly credit card or e-check donation online at www.showmercy.org.

The full Show Mercy fee for your trip must be paid in full before you depart for Uganda. What is covered in that fee is discussed later in this packet and is team specific depending upon what has been discussed with us.

****For a donation to be tax deductible, it must be given to a nonprofit organization, not an individual. If for some reason you are unable to travel on the trip, donations that have been

received will not be returned to the donors or given to the team member but will be used at the discretion of Show Mercy. Any donations received in excess of the cost of the trip will also not be returned to the donors or given to the team member.

If you are unable to travel on this trip, the funds will be held for 12 months so you can travel on another Show Mercy trip. This only applies to donations that are received through Show Mercy. You are responsible for handling any donations given directly to you for this trip when no tax deduction is needed or received.

If you receive more donations through fundraising than the SMI fee, Show Mercy will reimburse you for the items listed below. Receipts must be submitted to the office in Mississippi to receive reimbursement. Also, please note that if you come to Uganda and then leave before your original scheduled departure date for any reason, no refunds will be given.

Reimbursable items if funds are available in designated account include:

- Airfare to Uganda
- Visa Fees (\$50)
- Malaria Medication/Vaccinations
- Emergency Travel Insurance.

If you have any questions regarding these fundraising policies, please feel free to ask.

Vision for SMI Missions Teams

Providing opportunities to be a part of a mission team in Uganda is a core value of Show Mercy International.

During your stay, you will participate in various village outreaches, spend time with children in our sponsorship program in the surrounding villages, encourage and pray for the sick in local hospitals as well as our own medical clinic. You will have opportunities to share in local schools prisons and churches. There are also opportunities to work in agricultural/livestock projects and many other activities. We aim to foster an atmosphere where you are encouraged to experience more of the love of the Father in your own life through worship, devotionals and encouragement. We have seen hundreds of people leave with a passion to discover the unique purpose that God has for their lives.

LONG TERM SERVICE

Are you considering serving with SMI long term (12 months or longer)? If so, a 90-day internship is required before a long-term staff position is considered with Show Mercy. Advanced approval to stay past the initial 90 days is required before airline tickets are purchased or funds are raised. Your 90 days will give you an opportunity to see and learn firsthand about the mission and vision of Show Mercy. This is also a great time to get to know those you might work with in the future.

Relationship and team unity are strong values of SMI. You have to consider those you will be working alongside just as much as your personal passions for ministry. For those considering longer term service, a review will occur during your internship where we will sit down and both discuss and evaluate whether SMI is the place for you long term.

OUR STAFF

Please visit the Show Mercy International website at www.showmercy.org. Look under the About Us page for “Our Team” to see pictures of our staff in Uganda & the U.S.

WHERE YOU WILL STAY?

Show Mercy’s compound is built in the village of Nawanswa/Kaliti in Wakiso District Uganda. We are about an hour’s drive outside of Kampala, Uganda’s capital city and approximately 1 ½ to 2 hours from Entebbe Airport depending on traffic. Predominately Muslim, our village and the other surrounding villages are known for their agriculture and farming. A very rural community, the villagers’ work consists mostly of growing crops such as matooke (bananas), maize, sugarcane as well as herding goats and cattle. Most homes are made of mud bricks and can house multiple generations in one home. A family-oriented culture is predominant and the people are very friendly and giving.

Field of Dreams

You will be staying on our 25-acre compound called Field of Dreams. As of right now, our compound includes two dormitories for short term housing, intern/long term staff housing, the team leader's home, the Ark (a large building for cooking and team meetings), and a medical clinic and birthing center (directly outside the FOD gate). Our Dream Center is also down the road from our FOD entrance. You can read more about the Field of Dreams by visiting

<http://www.showmercy.org/smi/fieldofdreams/>
Our Field of Dreams base is very safe and the area we are located is very peaceful. We have a fence built around the perimeter of our property, and a security team that is staffed 24/7 to ensure your safety.

YOUR BEDROOM

Team members will stay in the dormitories on the Field of Dreams compound. In each of the two houses there are four bedrooms with two sets of bunk beds in each. Mosquito nets are provided for you in the rooms. There is a living room in each house with seating and space for team meetings or fellowship. Every room has a full bathroom with a shower, sink, mirror and western style flush toilet. There is also one dresser with four drawers in each room to store clothing and other items. You can also store your suit cases under your bed. You will be sharing your room with other interns as well as short-term team members (when large teams are visiting).

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR ROOM

- You are responsible for your room key. Please lock your room when you leave. All personal items must be stored in your room, not in the living room. Because we cannot find replacement keys for the doors and locks,

there is a \$50 fee for a lost key which will be used to replace the entire lock.

- There is usually hot water, but please be mindful of how much water you use. You will be sharing your hot water tank with up to 8 other people when all rooms are full. This might mean coordinating your bathing times. Take quick showers and only flush the toilet "when necessary". Water is a valuable resource in Uganda. It also takes electricity/generator power to pump our water. Keeping this in mind will help us to conserve energy as well as water.
- Bedding and pillows are provided and your bed will be made when you arrive. We ask that you bring your own set of twin sheets (100% cotton only) and leave them in Uganda for future teams as well as people we are ministering to in the villages.
- Turn off all lights when they are not being used. Electricity and light bulbs are quite expensive here.
- If a light bulb burns out, we ask that you contact your housing team leader. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CHANGE OUT THE BULBS. THEY ARE DIFFERENT THAN MOST WESTERN STYLE BULBS.**
- Please keep your rooms and especially the common area clean and tidy. It is honoring to Show Mercy as well as your roommates and fellow team members. We have been blessed with excellent facilities and want to be good stewards of what God has given us. We try to keep an atmosphere of peace on our compound. Disorganization and uncleanliness don't foster that environment.
- Quiet time is at 10 p.m. Since we are living in community, we ask that you be respectful of the others in your house and on the compound. This includes any activities such as worship, watching movies, praying, etc.

What Will You Do / Bring

MINISTRY AND OUTREACHES

The majority of your time will revolve around participating in the ministries and outreaches Show Mercy has already established. Some of the SMI outreaches include:

- Working in the village schools, Weekly discipleship ministry, Prison ministry, Weekly outreaches with our sponsorship children – Say No to Hunger, Elderly Ministry, Village Medical Clinic outreach, SMI Medical Clinic, Agriculture Projects, Administration and organization at FOD.
- Other ministry opportunities might include and may depend on whether we have supplies: handing out mosquito nets, street evangelism, building, maintenance at Field of Dreams, hosting children’s programs in the villages during school break.

JESUS-TIME



In the mornings we will often have Bible studies with the team and time will be set aside for you to spend with the Lord. We encourage all of our teams to spend time getting refreshed and refilled in order to pour out in the community. There will also be times of worship and prayer as a team.



MEALS

Meals are consumed in the Ark on the Show Mercy compound. They are prepared three times a day by the

SMI hospitality staff. They prepare incredible food for us, which is a huge blessing! You will have an opportunity to travel into town to shop for extra food and personal items.

BREAKFAST

Show Mercy provides bread for toast, eggs, fruit and tea/coffee for breakfast. Breakfast is available between 7:30am and 8:30am.

LUNCH

Simple lunch is provided every day for those at the FOD base at 12pm. You will hear a “dinner bell” being rung when the meal is ready. A typical meal consists of fruit, rice and beans, a simple Ugandan dish or leftovers.

DINNER

Dinner is typically served at 5:30 pm. in the Ark. Again, the “dinner bell” is rung to notify everyone that the meal is ready. The menu for dinner varies from typical Ugandan style foods (rice, beans, matooke, stir fry, chapati, etc.) to more familiar Western type foods such as spaghetti and casseroles. Our staff loves to cook and try new things. If you are going to be late for dinner or missing lunch, you will need to let the hospitality team know in advance. If not, they may not set any food aside for you. The kitchen closes following dinner.

All interns and short-term teams are expected to participate in sharing the responsibility of

dish duty. Upon your arrival, a schedule will be made. With one or two other people each day, you will be responsible for the cleaning of all dishes, cutlery, and pots and pans, as well as bleaching the tables and counter tops.



WHAT TO PACK

Because Field of Dreams is located in a predominantly Muslim village where clothing standards are very modest, we ask that you be conscious of the way you dress when ministering in the villages and while on the FOD compound. On village outreaches, women will need to wear skirts reaching below their knees and will need to always have their shoulders covered. REMEMBER, you will need to make sure your skirt is not transparent, or tight fitting, since you will be stretching your leg onto and over the boda boda (motorcycle taxi.)

When on the compound or in the city, you may wear capri pants, jeans, wide strapped tank tops, t-shirts, long shorts, exercise clothing and comfy pj pants. Depending on the time of year you come, it can stay hot into the evening so bring something comfortable to sleep in. Typically, the seasons in Uganda are:
March – May/ Sept. – Nov. – Rainy season
June – Aug. / Dec. – Feb. – Dry season

Most men in the villages will not wear shorts. However, it is acceptable for visitors to do so. Men on our team may bring and wear shorts along with pants in the villages.

Please keep our modesty policy in mind. In Uganda, shorts are generally unacceptable for women, even in the city. Showing your thighs can be viewed as particularly scandalous. We also ask that you be conscious of any writing or graphics on shirts and other items of clothing as

we want to be careful what messages we are sending. Please do not bring any jeans or pants with holes unless they are used only to work on the base.

A SAMPLE PACKING LIST FOR LADIES' CLOTHES

- Several (5-7) below the knee-length skirts (knits or cotton is best) things that are easy to wash and keep clean. (If a skirt is transparent, please bring a slip)
- Several shirts – we recommend bringing mostly T-shirts and a few tank tops. (no spaghetti straps or shirts that show the mid-drift) Please be conscious of how low the neckline of your shirts, as you will be bending over a lot as you interact with the children and during other outreaches.
- A good pair of sandals, a pair of tennis shoes and a pair of nice shoes for church or days in town. Make sure to have a pair of shoes that can get wet (during the rainy season).
- Contacts/Glasses – bring eye-care products if you wear contacts as it gets very dusty here
- A few casual outfits you can wear into town on your off days (jeans, capris, tank tops)
- Rain jacket, warm sweatshirt and sweaters. It does get cold here.
- Comfy lounging clothes for base- yoga pants, PJ pants, sweat pants, etc. Nothing too tight or revealing. No short shorts.

A SAMPLE PACKING LIST FOR MEN'S CLOTHES

- Dress pants for church
- Several pairs of pants – khakis or light-colored pants breath best but keep in mind you will be doing your own laundry so bring colors that best mask dirt stains. Men can wear shorts but they must be conservative, no running shorts or short shorts of any kind.

- *Several (5-7) shirts – bring at least two dress shirts to wear to church*
- *A good pair of sandals, a pair of tennis shoes and a pair of nice shoes for church or days in town. Also bring a pair of shoes that can get wet. (during rainy season)*
- *Contacts/Glasses – bring eye-care products if you wear contacts as it gets very dusty here*
- *A few outfits you can wear into town on your off days. (Shorts, jeans, etc.)*
- *Rain jacket, warm sweatshirt and sweaters. It does get cold here.*

OTHER ITEMS TO BRING

In Uganda many items are not readily available or they are expensive and of poor quality. We have listed for you some items that we recommend you bring with you for your team trip. Consider leaving these items behind after your trip for other teams and future visitors.

Suggested items you should carry personally onto the plane (backpack, purse)

- *Valid Passport (NOTE: Make sure your passport will not expire while you are in Uganda)*
- *International Certificate of Yellow Fever Vaccination*
- *Health Insurance Documents*
- *Airline itineraries*
- *Personal Funds - credit card/cash (Visa is much more accepted but cash is preferred*** See Money Matters for important information on the type of cash you should bring to Uganda.)*



SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR YOUR CARRY-ON

- *Personal items (deodorant, tooth brush, hair brush, face wipes, fresh undergarments, earplugs, breath freshener, gum, eye mask,*

socks, sweat shirt or jacket, pillow) NOTE: the TSA allows the following size liquids for carry-on: 3.4-ounce (100ml) bottle or less (by volume); 1 quart-sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag; 1 bag per passenger placed in screening bin.

- *Camera, chargers and memory cards*
- *Writing tablet and pens*
- *Bible and Leisure reading materials*
- *Headphones*
- *One change of clothes (great if for some reason your luggage does not make it to your final destination immediately)*
- *Anti-malarial tablets (most medicine will be started before you arrive in Uganda) ** You can now purchase these medications from our Show Mercy International Health Centre in Uganda for a fraction of the cost you would pay in the west, depending on which brand you choose. If you are interested in doing this you have to reserve these medications in advance. Please let us know as soon as possible what you are planning to do.*
 - *Sleep Aids to help you sleep on the plane and overcome jet lag*

ADDITIONAL ITEMS YOU MIGHT FIND USEFUL WHILE ON YOUR TRIP

Please bring enough for the duration of your stay.

- *Personal items – toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, body soap, shampoo and conditioner (2 large bottles), razors, dental floss, feminine care products, Q-tips, hair dye (if you use it), tweezers, nail clippers, sunscreen, sewing kit*
- *Converter and Adaptors (Ugandan power is 220v.) The adaptor is for devices that have a built-in converter like a laptop, some camera chargers, etc. Basically, anything that has 110-240v. written on it. The converter is only necessary for items that do not have a built-in converter like a hair dryer, flat iron, etc.*
- *Alarm clock (battery or wind up), wrist watch, Kindle, small Bluetooth speakers, USB flash*

drive (This is convenient for transferring files without the use of the internet)

- *Zip Lock bags for miscellaneous items*
- *Slippers or indoor type shoes to put on once you enter the house. Your shoes will be very dirty and you will want to remove them before walking into your house or other FOD buildings.*
- *Ear plugs and mask to block light (ear plugs are great to drown out roommates snoring and villagers outside)*
- *Small flashlight and batteries, or headlamp*
- *Laundry Detergent*
- *Sunglasses and Hat*
- *Meds: fiber supplement, anti-itch gel, aspirin/ibuprofen, band-aids, Ex-lax, Imodium, multi-vitamins, sleeping pills, Melatonin for jet lag, protein supplements (meat is not common for all meals) (all of your preference)*
- *Personal first aid supplies*
- *Hand sanitizer and hand/feet wipes or baby wipes for face and body (wiping down feet after outreaches)*
- *Kleenex packages to use as toilet paper when out in villages*
- *Rain poncho or umbrella*
- *Snacks – at your discretion.*
- *A backpack or bag for short traveling*
- *Re-usable water bottle*

ITEMS WE ASK YOU TO BRING AND LEAVE FOR SMI TO USE.

- Any items that we have pre-arranged.
- Cotton Twin Sheets and a Towel

- Duct Tape
- Colored card stock.
- Wooden Clothes Pins
- Outreach items: select from (colored card stock or construction paper, craft items, balloons, black children's shoes, school supplies, under garments for teen girls and boys, socks, travel size shampoo and lotion (great for hospital and prison outreaches), coloring pages, Sunday school curriculum, English flashcards, children's clothing or undergarments.)

INTERNET ACCESS

Team members may bring laptops for journaling or for copying pictures off of your camera SD card. However, an internet modem must be purchased through SMI for \$50/ 20GB, to access email, social media etc. while at the Field of Dreams base. You will also have the opportunity to go to town (Kampala) at least one day during your trip. There, you can access WIFI at a café.

CELL PHONES

Some cell phones from the US can be used in Uganda. Calling rates vary. Please check with your cell phone carrier for information on rates and accessibility.

HOW TO CALL TO AND FROM UGANDA

- *Calling Uganda from the US:
011+256+XXXXXXXXXX (9-digit number)*
- *Calling United States from Uganda 000 1 (area code) 7-digit number10*

Money Matters

You can exchange money at the airport for Uganda shillings. 2010 or newer bills in \$50 or \$100 denominations are REQUIRED. \$5's, \$10's, \$20's ARE VERY DIFFICULT TO EXCHANGE in UGANDA. Make sure the bills are not torn or written on. Please remember to account for any meals or items you might need in transit from your home to Uganda. The Field of Dreams doesn't function as a hotel or guest house. We are a ministry base that provides available accommodations for those that come to serve specifically with Show Mercy International. Your fees are not "rental fees" but are donations used to help expand the various SMI outreaches as well as the general ministry of Show Mercy. They also help to cover the following expenses:

- Accommodations – housing shared with roommates.
- Ground Transportation/Vehicle/Driver/Fuel
- Meals (see above 'Meals' section for more information)
- Safe Drinking water – bring a reusable bottle
- Ugandan Staff Expenses (Salaries, Food, etc.)
- Maintenance and Utility/Diesel Generator Expenses
- Vehicle Expenses/Fuel/Insurance/Maintenance
- Administration fees
- Additional expenses you should budget for that ARE NOT included in your SMI fee (unless otherwise pre-arranged.)

- Airfare and Visa (\$50)
 - Transportation for personal outings to Kampala. This will include taking public transportation/taxis/boda bodas- Approximately 15,000 shillings (\$6) round trip to and from Kampala. Traveling to the city on your days off is an optional expense.
 - Additional Snacks and Meals while away from Field of Dreams: A basic western type meal and soda will cost approximately 30,000 shillings (\$8). This expense will obviously depend upon how often you go out to eat and what you eat. There are different grocery stores which have a variety of snacks. Most Western type snacks are more expensive than African distributed foods.
 - Laundry Expenses – There are two options for your laundry. The first is to wash your clothes in the traditional Ugandan style (by hand.) Buckets and water are provided and there is no cost for this option other than the cost of laundry soap and a little sweat. The second option, for a fee of 10,000 shillings per load (approximately \$4), you may use one of our automatic washing machines. We ask that you limit your usage to one load per week. There are no electric dryers, only the sunshine and drying lines which is free!
- Souvenirs- This expense will depend completely on how much and what you buy. Former team members have spent between \$50 and \$150.

•Optional Gifts to Show Mercy for projects as they become available. (Some outreaches you may consider donating towards while you are here: sponsoring a feeding, clothing purchases, Bible purchases, sponsoring a child, funding a medical outreach, etc.)

CURRENCY

The unit of currency is the Ugandan shilling. Currency is circulated in 1,000, 2,000, 5,000, 10,000, 20,000 and 50,000 notes. The rate of exchange varies from day to day and month to month according to the US dollars available in Uganda and the world money markets. The average exchange rate in the past year has been around 3,600 shillings per \$1 US dollar. SMI will help facilitate your initial exchange at the beginning of your stay. Afterwards, you will be responsible for exchanging money or withdrawing funds from the ATM (VISA preferred) on personal days while out in Kampala. Credit Cards ARE NOT accepted at the majority of restaurants and stores. Also, Show Mercy will not be able to exchange money for you. Though most of your expenses will be covered, you will want to consider exchanging money for any souvenirs, gifts and snacks.

WHAT IF MY HEART IS MOVED TO GIVE MONEY TO PEOPLE?

Please do not give money or gifts to individuals, including children, staff or any other Ugandans that you might meet. Instead, give the money to SMI privately and designate the funds. SMI will honor those requests if they fit into our mission. Please do not tell anyone you are giving money to SMI for them. Rather than just giving toys, candy or gifts, SMI encourages you to give love, hugs, smiles, prayers, encouragement and

time. These are the gifts that make a lasting impact. We do not want to perpetuate a begging mentality that is so prevalent in Africa. Our heart is to build the people up and help them to feel good about what they are capable of accomplishing with what God has given them, not always showing them what we can do for them.



Medicines and Immunizations

Your health is an important consideration as you prepare for your trip to Uganda. Make sure that you consult your doctor or travel medical clinic at least one or two months before your departure. Some general recommendations are listed below.

YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION AND OTHERS

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) require people traveling to Uganda get the Yellow Fever immunization. This is required by Uganda from those traveling from the USA. Please check with your doctor for other potential immunizations/medicines to take. We suggest that you make an appointment for your immunizations well in advance of the trip. The international travel clinics will sometimes run out of the vaccine for periods of time. You can visit the CDC's website to read more:

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/Uganda>

PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE

If you take prescription medicine, make sure to bring enough for the whole time of your stay. The following prescribed medicines are recommended or required:

- Malaria medication (required). Malarone is a daily medication that we suggest. There is now a generic Malarone that is not as expensive but still a good choice. We do not recommend Mefloquine (Lariam) unless you have used it before with no problems. It can have psychiatric side effects (bad dreams, anxiety, etc.) Doxycycline is a daily preventative and much cheaper than the rest. However, it can cause you to be sensitive to the sun, which might cause discomfort since Uganda is on the equator. You can purchase this medication at our FOD clinic in Uganda. Malarone is \$4 per pills (you take one daily). Doxycycline is \$30 for short term teams and \$40 for interns for the entire time up to 90 days. Please let us know **TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO YOUR TRIP** (at the latest) if you would like to purchase this medication from our clinic in Uganda.

*Cipro (RECOMMENDED) is an antibiotic that your doctor must prescribe for severe diarrhea that does not resolve with Imodium. We suggest you bring some.

TRAVEL MEDICAL INSURANCE

Travel medical insurance is required for your stay. If you already have health insurance, information. You can also tell them they can contact you through the Show Mercy email, info@showmercy.org. Please ask if you have any questions about this policy.

please check with your agent to make sure you will be covered during your stay. Some policies will not cover trips of this nature. Check your Managed Mission account with for an organization that we recommend.



SHARING CONTACT INFORMATION

Show Mercy has a strong policy concerning the sharing of personal contact information. We ask that you not share any of your personal contact information with our Uganda staff as well as any Ugandan you meet while serving with SMI. Our Ugandan staff has agreed not to share their personal information or to ask you for your information and we ask that you do the same. If you receive contact information from a Ugandan, especially our staff, please do not contact them and let us know about it so we can continue to work with them in this area. This includes phone numbers, emails, or Facebook friending, social media following. Sharing such contact information can and has led to many misunderstandings. In the Ugandan culture, friendship means commitment. Financial support is often expected from “friends”. After leading many teams, we ask that you trust our experience and respect our policy of not giving out contact information. If someone asks for your number or email you can direct them to www.showmercy.org or simply say you prefer not to share your personal

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is typically included on team trips for SMI outreaches and some pre-planned personal outings. This does not include taking you to visit other projects that

you might be involved in or daily trips to Kampala. We will typically take teams to Kampala one time per week if necessary.

Travel Information

When you arrive in Uganda by air, you will be arriving at Entebbe International Airport (airport code: EBB). As you depart from your plane you will be directed to the main terminal.

CLEARING IMMIGRATION

Once you enter the terminal building, the first matter of business is to clear immigration in the 'arrivals' hall. First, you will fill out an 'arrivals' card, usually provided on the plane just before landing. Once you have filled out the card (mostly likely on the plane – so have an ink pen handy), you will then go to one of the immigration booths. On this card you will indicate that you are staying at Show Mercy at Field of Dreams Wakiso, and your contact is Janet (0772985115 or +256793625184). You will need to go to the booths in order to obtain a visa.

OBTAINING A VISA

Please visit <https://visas.immigration.go.ug> and complete the application for your Visa. In the application you will state that you're applying for a visa, select the type as 'ordinary' and 'single entry Tourism'. You will need to upload scans of required documents as well. You will pay for your visa online (\$50), please be prepared to do so. Once you have finished, you will

receive a confirmation e-mail with an attached barcode. Please print the e-mail with the barcode and bring it with you. Please do this at least two weeks before your departure. If you have any questions on this procedure, please contact us. Once you submit the visa application you will be in their database for your arrival in Entebbe. You will present to the immigration officer your passport and your printed barcode for the visa. There is also a requirement for a Yellow Fever certificate. Your visa is a 'sticker' or sometimes a stamp that is placed in your passport. You can ask for a receipt if you choose. They may take your picture or scan your finger prints as well at the visa counter.

CLAIMING YOUR LUGGAGE

Once you have your visa, you will move past the immigration booths and go to the right. That will take you into the luggage claim area. There are luggage trollies available for your use at no charge. If for some reason all of your bags do not arrive, there is a lost luggage claim area to the left of the luggage hall and airline staff will try to assist you. Once you have all of your bags, you will move towards the customs area.

CLEARING CUSTOMS

There are two main areas in customs. There

is the 'red' route for those who have something to claim that may be 'dutyable' and there is the 'green' route for those with nothing to claim. As a general rule, arriving missionary staff and work teams do not have anything to declare so you can proceed following the 'green' signs. A customs official may stop you and ask you some questions. However, that is very rare. Ugandan Customs officials are generally very courteous and they appreciate the same response from you. Just keep your eyes on the exit and proceed through.

AFTER CLEARING CUSTOMS

After you have cleared the customs area, you will exit the airport. You will be met there by one of our SMI staff or one of our drivers holding a SMI sign. If for some reason you are not met as you expected, just wait patiently in the waiting area and someone will arrive shortly. There are many taxi drivers who will offer to assist you with a ride or baggage handlers who will try to help you with your luggage. Tell them no thank you and just wait in the waiting area. You can be assured someone from SMI will be there to pick you up. At times, traffic delays do occur.

PASSPORT

Please make three color copies of your passport. Leave one copy at home with a friend or family member. Pack one in your luggage apart from your passport and give the other one to one of our staff leaders on the ground in Uganda. This will help to facilitate any hotel stays or outreaches that require a copy of a passport while in Uganda.

We are excited to have you join us!!

We know your trip will be life changing. Our heart is that you return home full of amazing life changing testimonies. Our prayer is also that each person comes to know Jesus more and more. We want you to grow, step out of your comfort zone, and enjoy your time in as a Show Mercy team member. Be assured that SMI wants to inspire, encourage and facilitate you stepping into what God has for you in Uganda. We all have an opportunity to be awakened to LOVE like never before.



Be a Voice/Advocate

Part of what we would ask of you as a Show Mercy team member is to be a voice for Show Mercy when you go home and when you are here. Be intentional to share with friends and family about Show Mercy and your experience. Invite them to be part of what you are doing.

HOW CAN I BE A VOICE?

Great question! Here are a few ways you can help answer the cry of injustice: Ask friends and family to “Like” and “Follow” Show Mercy on all social media platforms.

- Inspire your circle of family and friends to take a trip or participate in an internship.
- Update your FB/Instagram page with stories about children in the SMI sponsorship program or other outreaches we are doing.
- Rally your friends and family to raise support for an upcoming SMI project. Being on the ground gives your perspective credibility.

- Organize your own team in the future. If you gather 10 or more people, your SMI fee is waived!
- Write a personal blog to get the word out about what Show Mercy is doing.
- Share and comment on the SMI Facebook page updates to your own FB page.

Our passion is to inspire people to live on purpose. Remember, Jesus said it is better to give than receive. Help your friends and families discover this truth!

Cultural Tips

Greeting a person is so important that people will interrupt a conversation to greet you if they are passing by. Be sure to make a proper greeting before conducting any business with someone.

- People eat the same thing every day according to their tribal customs. For example, the people in our area “take” tea in the early morning, Porridge mid-morning, Posho (ground maize) and beans for lunch and rice or matoke (a banana that tastes like a potato) and beans for dinner. Sometimes on the weekend they eat meat, and matoke along with their rice and beans.
- Women mostly wear skirts and dresses in the village and it is frowned upon by many of the older generation when a woman wears pants. In the city pants are quite acceptable.

- When greeting, a person may offer you their wrist rather than their hand if their hands are dirty.
- Often a person may kneel down when greeting you as a sign of respect.
- There are no “boy” or “girl” colors for clothing. Boys like pink!
- If you travel somewhere on foot, it is called “footing.”
- Gasoline is often purchased daily. They buy only the amount they think they will use that day.
- Only boys and young men wear shorts.
- Motorcycles are called boda-bodas. It used to be when traveling between countries a person would need to walk from the exit place of one country to the entrance of another. Out of convenience drivers on motorcycles offered to help people out for a fee. They would yell “boda boda” (border to border).
- School age girls and boys shave their heads.

- Ugandans drive on the left side of the road. 99% don't drive at all.
- Malaria carrying mosquitos typically bite between 9pm and 5am.
- Food is usually cooked over an open fire in the village.
- If a person happens to have money it is considered to be available to anyone in need. Therefore, many people put their money into land and start building houses so they have no money on hand. Driving around you will see many unfinished houses.
- The extended family is so important that an Aunt may be called Mother and a cousin might be called a brother or sister.
- A child is considered to be an orphan in the Ugandan culture if one parent has died.
- Married women often wear a traditional dress called a Gomesi. It has puffed sleeves and a wide belt that wraps around the waist and hips.
- White people are called Muzungu and children often chant "Hi Muzungu, Hi Muzungu." or "Bye Muzungu, bye Muzungu."
- Men often hold hands a sign of friendship. This does not indicate they are in an intimate relationship.
- Time: Most Ugandans will not keep time. They are more 'event-oriented' than 'time-oriented' as we are in America. Quite a few may have watches on their arms, but they tend to look at the sun instead. A 1:00 pm appointment may mean general lunchtime between 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. It is said that in American, everyone has a watch but no time. In Uganda, few have watches but all the time in the world.
- Community: Africans are very community oriented. They take care of each other, watch each other's children, and are extremely family-oriented. The African family not only consists of one's immediate family, but also their extended family and close caring friends.
- Breast feeding is naturally accepted in public. Nobody cares!
- Uganda is a male-dominated culture. Women will, for example, kneel down when greeting men. This is not expected of Muzungu (white) ladies. Women and children often do not eat with the men. Men are served first and are the dominant figure in the family.
- Ugandans are generally very friendly to strangers. Many people may approach a Muzungu (white person) mainly because they want to be of help in any way possible. However, care must be taken, as many if not all people here associate Muzungu with money or any other economic benefits.
- Little public romantic expression is acceptable in Ugandan culture, even between husband and wife. This includes holding hands, kissing, etc.
- When taking photographs of a Ugandan, you need to ask their permission as a matter of common courtesy, just as you would ask permission at home. Usually street scenes, church services, and pictures at children's homes are welcomed but always ask just to be sure. It is illegal to take pictures at the airport, of government buildings, police stations and of official personnel unless special permission has been given.

Expect Great Things!