

Criteria for Areas of Focus

Summary

The criteria presented in this document, in conjunction with the scores from the Partnership Screen will be used to determine which missions are eligible for First Church partnership.

Four areas of focus

1. Church planting and evangelism
2. Leadership development of pastors and lay members
3. Capital investment for ministry growth
4. Socioeconomic development

1) Criteria for church planting and evangelism

- A. The request focuses on reaching a new people group in a region of First Church involvement, or supporting new evangelism efforts of a mission partner.
- B. The candidate or organization has demonstrated experience and has already invested personally in the mission.
- C. The candidate is not working alone, but is part of a reliable supporting mission group or board of directors, which monitors their work.
- D. The candidate agrees to report regularly to First Church about their activity, his situation, and his needs for congregational prayer; and every candidate will expect to be evaluated for continued financial support every 3 years.
- E. Focuses on raising up indigenous leadership.
- F. The goal for a church plant is to become self-supporting.

2) Criteria for leadership development of pastors and lay members

- A. The goal of all training is to bring more and more people to saving belief in Jesus.
- B. Training will center on Bible knowledge where it is lacking, as well as leadership skills, which will allow the participant to be more effective in ministry.
- C. Participants will be encouraged to share and propagate knowledge acquired through the training.

3) Criteria for capital investment

- A. The request is for investment in physical structures or resources essential to ministry (e.g. – new building, addition to a building, evangelism materials, tools, etc.)
- B. These improvements will enable a ministry to either start or increase its impact
- C. The requesting agency will contribute, as able, to the project
- D. The project will include the use of indigenous labor and goods where appropriate

4) Criteria for socioeconomic development

- A. Fosters life change and transformation, providing impact beyond one-time relief, while retaining personal dignity.
- B. The ministry is Christ centered and provides the opportunity for participants to learn about Jesus, and grow in their Christian walk
- C. Works with and supports the local church