

Additional Safety and Security Measures for Travel – Updated 11.1.21

The safety of Friends of Barnabas staff and team members is a priority, and we constantly work to expand our efforts in this area. We routinely monitor the safety conditions in Honduras, and we will make needed changes, including the postponement of teams and activities, where appropriate.

November 2021 will bring a presidential election to Honduras and historically, this has meant protests and demonstrations, predominately in urban areas but at times countrywide and along primary roads. Also, in recent years, rainstorms have often intensified and led to flooding, road closures, and dangerous travel to/from mountain communities. Therefore, FOB will take certain additional precautions prior to the movement of staff or team members.

- FOB's President will stay in regular, close communication with FOB's Country Director, Assistant Country Director, and local Honduran board members regarding the safety of the areas in which FOB staff and team members work. This group will serve as a Safety and Security Team. Local media outlets will also be regularly monitored.
- Weekly, FOB's President will receive brief reports on safety and security concerns from FOB's Assistant Country Director and Transportation Coordinator regarding the Lake Yojoa area and any other concerns. She will receive reports separately from FOB's Country Director regarding San Pedro Sula and any other concerns. The President will consult with other members of the Safety and Security Team as needed.
- Monthly, FOB will circulate a list of routes and alternative routes for upcoming travel needs. This list will be evaluated by FOB's Transportation Coordinator, drivers, contacts with the local police department, and two other security groups. This evaluation will include comments regarding the frequency of protests or disruptions and suggestions for alternative routes not included.

Based on the above information, FOB leadership and/or the Safety and Security Team will determine a level for travel to Honduras for teams:

- **Level 1 – Normal team operations are permitted.**
- **Level 2 – Additional precautions will be taken to move teams throughout Honduras.**
- **Level 3 – Team travel will be postponed.**

During times when FOB's Transportation Coordinator and/or the Safety and Security Team deem that the weather, health, social, and/or political climate is **at Level 2**, the following measures will be utilized:

REGARDING AIRPORT PICK UP OF TEAMS:

- Prior to leaving Peña Blanca, all vehicles headed to the airport will have full tanks of gas (*paid by FOB, not team funds*) to eliminate stops between the airport and the Barnabas House.
- FOB's bus will be utilized to pick up teams at the airport. All team members will ride in the bus along with all duffels and baggage.
- FOB drivers will depart Peña Blanca at 4:00 AM to arrive at the airport in San Pedro Sula prior to potential protests in the airport area.
- FOB drivers will be in contact with FOB's Country Director and Assistant Country Director with the news of their arrival at that airport or regarding any disturbances along the road. Drivers will have cell phones as well as long range radios.
- Security guards will travel in FOB's bus with the team.

- The bus will be equipped with the following:
 - Cooler of ice,
 - Emergency Tub with ponchos, box of heavy-duty trash bags, bottles of vinegar and towels (to give each team member in case of teargas), first aid kit (in addition to the standard box carried on the bus), and large box of granola bars,
 - Oxygen tank and masks,
 - Large bottle of water and cups (sufficient for the team).
- Before leaving the airport, team members will be asked to:
 - Purchase lunch food and water,
 - Use restrooms.
- An FOB staff member will drive the Isuzu truck and will depart at least 10 minutes ahead of the bus. They will report back to the driver of the bus should they encounter any problems along the route.

In the case that FOB staff determine that it is unsafe to leave the airport area due to protests on the roads leading in/out of airport, the team should:

- Purchase water and food in the airport shops,
- Use the restrooms,
- Find a seat at the far end of the airport, near departures, to sit and wait for instructions from FOB.

In the case that FOB staff determine that it is unsafe to leave San Pedro Sula due to protests on the roads leading in/out of the area, the team will be accompanied by FOB to a safe, local hotel.

GENERAL REMINDERS FOR TEAMS:

Prior to departure from the US:

- Each team leader will be contacted by the FOB Central Office with an update on the current safety and security situation in Honduras and again close to the date of travel should circumstances change.
- Team members will be encouraged to adjust expectations from previous trips and to remain flexible. They will be reminded of the importance of their service in Honduras and of FOB's priority of safety.
- An FOB Honduran cell phone will be provided for each team.

Upon arrival:

- The Team Leader should contact the number listed on the FOB Honduran phone to notify of arrival time and to receive any pertinent instructions.
- Team members will each have a minimum of \$50 US dollars, all medications, and their passports in their backpacks.
- All phones, electronic devices, and cameras MUST stay packed in backpacks at all times during travel on the bus. No pictures are to be taken of any security officers, soldiers, or police nor of protests or demonstrations.

During stay in Honduras:

- All team funds will be exchanged and received at Alfredo House upon arrival.
- It may be necessary to adjust planned schedules and even postpone visits to planned communities. It must be understood that safety comes first, and that FOB staff will manage services to planned communities at another date.
- If needed, support activities will be planned for the team at Barnabas House. The team members should understand that these efforts are also needed by FOB.

REGARDING COMMUNITY EVACUATIONS:

At times, the team will be asked to depart early from a community due to weather or other circumstances:

- FOB staff will make the decision to leave and will inform the team leader.
- The team leader should then go to each clinic station and ask that the team members quickly finish seeing the patient(s) they are with and then close up their station as soon as possible.
- Team members should understand that no discussion about the events is appropriate at that time.
- As soon as stations are pack up, supplies should be carried to the bus. Ponchos are available in the Emergency Tub in case of rain.
- If conditions consist of severe rain, heavy duty trash bags from the Emergency Box should be used for all pharmacy tubs.
- Once all tubs are loaded on the bus, the team leader and FOB Assistant Country Director should complete a final review of all clinic sites as well as a headcount.
- Should road conditions be difficult, the team should be quiet on the bus.

REGARDING GENERAL COUNTRY EVACUATIONS:

Should the team require an early departure from Honduras:

- FOB staff will make the decision to leave and will inform the team leader.
- The team leader should then inform the team and ask that they pack all of their belongings as soon as possible.
- Team members should understand that no discussion about the events is appropriate at that time.
- As soon as possible, bags should be loaded onto the bus.
- After the bus is completely loaded, the team leader and FOB Assistant Country Director should complete a final review of rooms as well as a headcount. They should confirm that passports are on the bus.
- Should road conditions be difficult, the team should be quiet on the bus.

While every effort will be made to avoid areas with demonstrations and protests, should environments change after travel has begun, additional security can be provided. FOB vehicles should not attempt to move across protest ridden areas.