

## LIFE teams FAQ's

### *Thinking about coming?*

---

#### **Who can come on a LIFE teams project?**

Although some of the projects are open to medical personnel (doctors, nurses, EMT's, pharmacists etc.), the majority of projects are open to anyone who is willing to come, be flexible and serve in whatever way is needed on the project.

#### **Is there an age restriction to volunteer on a LIFE team.**

You need to be in good physical health to come on a LIFE teams project (a doctors letter giving clearance to travel may be required in some cases). Please contact [lifeteams@globalaid.net](mailto:lifeteams@globalaid.net) with any questions.

#### **What does a construction team mean?**

A construction team means that the team will be undertaking a specific construction project. This could be building a house, orphanage, church, pouring a concrete pad for a borehole, painting, or undertaking general maintenance. The team would work under the leadership of someone skilled in construction but not all team members need to have a construction background or skills.

#### **If I don't have a specific skill, can I still come?**

Yes. GAIN exists to demonstrate the love of God, in word and deed, to hurting and needy people through relief and development projects. If you have two hands and are willing to be flexible serve in whatever capacity is needed, please apply!

#### **How do I apply?**

Email [lifeteams@globalaid.net](mailto:lifeteams@globalaid.net) and request an application package. The application package has a variety of forms and waivers that need to be filled out and signed as well as two references that need to be returned to your LIFE teams coordinator. Your application will be processed when a completed application is received and sent in with a \$50 deposit which will be applied to the total project cost.

#### **Do I need to re-apply if I want to come on a second or third project with GAIN?**

You don't need to do a complete re-application but you will be required to sign a new waiver form if the calendar year of your project is different. You also need to send in an updated emergency contact form and passport copy.

#### **I don't speak a second language, is that okay?**

Yes. We work with a great team of translators if we're in a country where English is not the main language.

#### **I'm part of a group that wants to come, can you accommodate us?**

Yes! We have a variety of options ranging from having your group join an already scheduled project or customizing a project experience specifically for your group. Please email [lifeteams@globalaid.net](mailto:lifeteams@globalaid.net) for more information.

## *Finances*

---

### **Can I fundraise for the project? How do I raise funds?**

Yes. Funds can be raised to cover your project cost through a variety of ways. Email your team coordinator at [lifeteams@globalaid.net](mailto:lifeteams@globalaid.net) to request a fundraising package to help you with this process. Your team coordinator will also help you track your donations.

### **Can I pay for the trip out of pocket?**

Yes.

### **Are donations tax deductible?**

Yes, all donations for projects are tax deductible. Donors will receive a tax deductible receipt from GAIN for all donations made directly to GAIN (Canadian & US donors only).

### **What if I raise more than what the trip costs?**

Any funds you raise are designated to Global Aid Network for use on your project, with donated funds being project specific and not participant specific. Any additional funds you raise for your project will be used for additional project costs. We would actually encourage you to aim higher than the budgeted amount and raise additional funds which could then be used to provide additional support for your project; this could include using the funds for contributing to drilling a water well, providing medical supplies or paying for construction materials... or any ongoing need where your team will be working.

### **What happens if I'm unable to go on a project or need to cancel?**

One important thing to remember is that although the funds you raise are allocated for your project costs, the money raised is being given to Global Aid Network's project in your destination country i.e. Benin, Haiti etc.. In the case that you are unable to come or need to cancel at the last minute, your supporters funds cannot be reimbursed as they are project specific and not participant specific. This means that any funds you have raised will be used for the project. Please note that this is due to CRA (Canada Revenue Agency) regulations.

### **Are vaccinations covered in the cost of the project?**

Vaccinations are not covered in the cost of a project as vaccination needs vary from participant to participant. You can raise additional funds to reimburse vaccinations, please speak to your LIFE teams coordinator for more information.

### **Why do I have to pay or raise support for the project?**

GAIN is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that raises funds for all of its activities. All funds raised by GAIN are designated towards specific causes. Because of this, it is the responsibility of each team member to raise or pay for the cost of their project.

## *Day-to-Day*

---

### **What happens throughout the day?**

Activities throughout the day vary but a rough daily schedule consists of breakfast and a team morning meeting to prepare for the day, followed by travel to the project site (if not staying on site), a full day of work with a break for lunch, dinner and an evening debriefing. You can expect early mornings and long, challenging days.

**Will I be safe?**

GAIN works with trusted in-country partners to ensure safe and secure accommodations for the team. GAIN staff also regularly monitor current events in country including political, health, security and weather conditions. We take every precaution to keep you safe throughout your project.

**What about drinking water and eating?**

One of the opportunities throughout your project is to experience the food of the culture you are in. Although your meals will not be standard North American fare, they will be cooked by someone who is familiar with the need for cleanliness and cooking for a North American team. You will be provided safe and clean drinking water throughout your project.

**Who do we work with in-country? Why?**

GAIN is committed to working with and supporting national partners through coming alongside their community development goals and mandate to care for their communities. GAIN exists to demonstrate the love of God in word and deed, to hurting and needy people around the world, through relief and development projects. We've found that the most effective way to do this is through working with in-country partners who can ensure a long-term and sustainable impact in their communities. Another of GAIN's core values is to equip and empower nationals and again, this occurs through our commitment to working with in-country partners.

**What do I pack?**

Upon project acceptance you will be provided with a welcome package that has further details and a packing list specific to your project.

**Can I bring things (stickers/toys) to give out to the children?**

Please feel free to bring stickers, toys, school supplies for children on your project. You can also contact your team coordinator for what items would be best for your project. Please remember that it is very important to ensure that you have enough for every child present. If not, your items may be given to the orphanage director/national leader so that they can be distributed in a fair manner. You'll likely have the opportunity to help with the distribution. Larger items such as soccer balls would be given to the director/in country leader to ensure fair distribution. Sharing is not always a common concept in these countries and riots have occurred when not everyone receives an item.

**Will there be time for tourist activities?**

You can expect to have an afternoon or day activity planned in your debriefing at the end of your project. If you're on a 2 week project, you will have a rest day that may have an outing included in the middle of the project. Depending on your project you will likely have very little additional time for tourist activities as the project time in the field is already quite short and the days are full.

**Will I have internet access?**

Your emergency contact will be contacted via email when your team arrives safely. You may have the opportunity to check your email throughout the project but depending on the location of the team and accommodations, please plan to have very limited or no access to Internet.

**How can my family/friends stay updated on the team?**

They can follow “*Global Aid Network (GAIN) Canada*” on Facebook or Twitter, @GAINCanada for updates and pictures throughout your project.