



Compassion International's Individual Visit Guidelines

In order to ensure a safe, enjoyable experience for you, Compassion has established the following visit guidelines. We thank you for taking the time to review the guidelines, and we look forward to assisting you with your visit!

- In accordance with our [Commitment to Child Protection](#), Compassion requires a Background Check for all adult visitors (18 and older) who are meeting any beneficiary of a ministry program. This includes arrangements to meet any sponsored child or Leadership Development Program student; this also includes arrangements to visit a Compassion student center or Child Survival Program. Each adult visitor will be responsible for payment of the \$40 nonrefundable, non-tax-deductible fee, as well as submitting the information to our third-party vendor, ScreeningONE. Instructions for the background check will be provided upon registration for a visit.
- Compassion strongly recommends visitors provide a complete visit request with at least eight weeks' advance notice prior to the visit date. Visits are limited to a single day, averaging 2-6 hours, and are arranged Monday through Friday, during regular business hours. Please note that visit requests with less than eight weeks' advance notice will be considered on a case by case basis, and approvals are limited.
- Compassion USA will contact the local field office of the country to where you are traveling in order to make the arrangements for your visit day. When your visit has been approved and the details are confirmed, Compassion USA will provide you with contact information for your in-country visit host.
- Visitors are responsible for all expenses that are incurred during the planning and execution of a visit. Compassion will notify visitors of any expenses that need to be paid prior to the visit, and any expenses that need to be covered during the visit. Please review our Compassion Visit Expense Policy for more information.
- Visitors are responsible for making all international travel and accommodation arrangements at their own expense. Compassion will not be responsible for any activities at any time other than the scheduled visit.
- Visitors should not seek or accept accommodations at the Compassion student center or church partner, with the family of any sponsored child or student, at a staff

member's home, or with a member of the community. Overnight stays are strictly prohibited.

- A Compassion representative will accompany visitors at all times during the visit. This person will act as an interpreter, or a contracted translator will be hired to facilitate the visit. Visitors will not, at any time, meet with a sponsored child or student without the presence of a Compassion staff member or assigned host.
- Visitors must show respect to Compassion staff, children, students, families and communities that they meet and take into consideration the cultural sensitivities of the country. Specifically, visitors must not engage in any behavior which could reasonably be interpreted as flirtatious, unwelcome or sexual in any manner.
- Visitors should not give any personal contact information to a Compassion sponsored child or student, and should not ask for or record a child or student's contact information. Visitors agree to comply with Compassion's regular Correspondence process and channel all communication through the ministry. Visitors should not, under any circumstances, pursue or respond to communications with a sponsored child or student through Facebook or other social networking sites.
- All gifts intended for a sponsored child or student, their family, or the community, will be in accordance with Compassion's policies. Visitors should not give cash directly to the student center staff, Compassion staff, the child or student, or their family.
- Compassion International is not responsible for any injuries or accidents that may occur to visitors during the visit. Each visitor is required to sign an Individual Visit Consent Form prior to travel. The Consent Form will be provided upon registration for a visit.
- Visitors must understand that the sponsored child or student they meet has family/parents/guardians of his/her own. Visitors will respect and adhere to the boundaries of the relationship with the beneficiary and not interfere with parenting matters that do not impact the health, safety or welfare of the beneficiary.
- Visitors are responsible for reading and understanding these rules. If Compassion reasonably believes a visitor has broken any of these rules, whether deliberately or inadvertently, Compassion may, in its sole and exclusive discretion, cancel a visit.