OVERVIEW: The Seven Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Mission

1. **GOD-CENTEREDNESS**
   An excellent short-term mission seeks first God’s glory and his kingdom, and is expressed through our:
   - **Purpose** – Centering on God’s glory and his ends throughout our entire STM process
   - **Lives** – Sound biblical doctrine, persistent prayer, and godliness in all our thoughts, words, and deeds
   - **Methods** – Wise, biblical, and culturally-appropriate methods which bear spiritual fruit

2. **EMPOWERING PARTNERSHIPS**
   An excellent short-term mission establishes healthy, interdependent, on-going relationships between sending and receiving partners, and is expressed by:
   - **Focus** – Our primary focus on intended receptors
   - **Plans** which benefit all participants
   - **Mutual trust** and accountability

3. **MUTUAL DESIGN**
   An excellent short-term mission collaboratively plans each specific outreach for the benefit of all participants, and is expressed by:
   - **On-field methods** and activities aligned to long-term strategies of the partnership
   - **Goer-guests’** ability to implement their part of the plan
   - **Host receivers’** ability to implement their part of the plan

4. **COMPREHENSIVE ADMINISTRATION**
   An excellent short-term mission seeks first God’s glory and his kingdom, and is expressed through:
   - **Truthfulness** in promotion, finances, and reporting results
   - **Appropriate** risk management
   - **Quality** program delivery and support logistics

5. **QUALIFIED LEADERSHIP**
   An excellent short-term mission screens, trains, and develops capable leadership for all participants, and is expressed by:
   - **Character** – Spiritually mature servant leadership
   - **Skills** – Prepared, competent, organized, and accountable leadership
   - **Values** – Empowering and equipping leadership

6. **APPROPRIATE TRAINING**
   An excellent short-term mission prepares and equips all participants for the mutually designed outreach, and is expressed by:
   - **Biblical**, appropriate, and timely training
   - **On-going training** and equipping (pre-field, on-field, post-field)
   - **Qualified** trainers

7. **THOROUGH FOLLOW-THROUGH**
   An excellent short-term mission assures debriefing and appropriate follow-through for all participants, and is expressed by:
   - **Comprehensive debriefing** of all participants (pre-field, on-field, post-field)
   - **Thoughtful** and appropriate follow-through for goer-guests
   - **On-field and post-field** evaluation among sending and receiving partners