

an OUTREACH TEAM START to FINISH



Survey Trip

This graphic represents a typical AIM TIMO (Training In Ministry Outreach) Team.

36 TO 24 MONTHS PRIOR TO TEAM'S ARRIVAL

Up to three years prior to a team's arrival in Africa, Africa Inland Mission (AIM) personnel research unreached people groups and determine viable locations to engage in ministry. AIM conducts an initial survey trip to assess housing options and obtain permissions from the local government, church, and community. The field is then able to use the information gathered on the survey trip to draft an initial team budget and begin developing a team plan.



Team Plan

One of the essential components of developing a team plan is identifying and mobilizing team leaders. Team leaders are usually married couples who guide the team together. Once team leaders are identified, the field organizes a logistics trip in order to agree on locations for team leader and team member housing, as well as to assess building, renovation, or rental costs.

Team personnel needs are communicated to Christians living in Africa Inland Mission's mobilizing regions around the world.



24 TO 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO TEAM'S ARRIVAL

Team Leader



Team vehicles vary based on team needs and locations, from Land Rovers, to boats, to simple scooters. One team even used horses.



Team leader, Adam, in a partially constructed team home.

The arrival of the team leader(s) marks the final stages of preparation before a team gets to the field. Several responsibilities are shared as team leaders move to their ministry location. They assist in building/renovating or renting their house as applicable. Team vehicles (if necessary) are purchased and the team budget is completed. A team curriculum is agreed upon and team member manuals are drafted. Team member housing costs, furniture costs, setup and arrival costs are finalized and sent to mobilizing offices to help establish team member support targets.

12 TO 6 MONTHS PRIOR TO TEAM'S ARRIVAL

6 MONTHS PRIOR TO TEAM'S ARRIVAL

One or more logistics trips are organized to assist with the construction or renovation of team member housing. This often includes the help of AIM Short-Term missionaries. Team leaders begin connecting with and corresponding with their team members to answer questions they have as they pack and prepare. The team leader works to organize venue and materials for the team orientation.

Arrival Day



Housing

Team members begin their time on the field with a week-long field orientation and language course designed to prepare team members for ongoing language learning. Afterwards, the team lives for one week with a family from their host culture. Upon completion of this week-long homestay, the team returns to their own housing and begins curriculum assignments and language learning.

The team leader works with the field to decide on a plan for a one-month short-term TIMO Quest team to join the outreach team.

TEAM ARRIVES FOR TWO-YEAR TERM



While many teams serve in remote bush locations, others serve in urban centers.

1 Year Evaluations

At a team's one year point, they take some time off site with a facilitator to look at the year past, do some reflecting, and some planning for their next stage of ministry.



Relationships are at the core of team outreach ministry. Back on site, the team continues to live and serve in their community, sharing Christ in word and deed.

6 TO 12 MONTHS INTO MINISTRY TERM

12 TO 24 MONTHS INTO MINISTRY TERM



Team hosts a TIMO Quest team, a month-long opportunity for short-term personnel to serve alongside a team to gain first-hand exposure to church planting ministry with an eye toward full-term service.

Team takes a "Month Out," visiting another ministry to gain exposure to different opportunities prior to the team's conclusion and debrief. While TIMO teams do have a defined "end" point, team members often return to continue ministry among the same people group, or enter another aspect of cross-cultural ministry. Some go on to lead another team.

Finishing Well

Final Debrief It is critical that a team ends well. The Final Debrief gives the team a chance to reflect and look back on their experience, say goodbyes, and to prepare themselves and their children to return to their passport cultures.



"Missions exists," writes John Piper, "because worship doesn't." Our prayer is that each of our teams will result in the worship of Jesus Christ through a newly-formed body of believers!

12 TO 24 MONTHS INTO MINISTRY TERM