

DISCOVA

EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL



Community Development Report

July 2023 – June 2024



Discova Educational Travel

Our Vision

Our vision is to create thriving, resilient communities where every individual has the opportunity to realise their potential. We aim to foster environments that support sustainable development, ensuring that all community members have access to essential resources, quality education, and economic opportunities.

Through collaborative efforts, we aspire to build inclusive and equitable communities that can adapt to future challenges, guided by principles of sustainability, and empowerment.

What we offer:

- Community project work
- Local community interaction
- Sightseeing tours – to your specification
- Local village stay accommodation
- Hotel accommodation
- Seamless transfers between destinations

What you can expect as standard:

- Rigorous health and safety audits
- No project management fee
- Authentic connections with local communities
- The opportunity to make a real difference
- Fully qualified guides and support staff



Our Strategy

The Discova Educational Travel Team came together in 2007 to set up and manage our eight exclusive development projects to support local communities at our destinations. We also work with NGOs and Social Enterprises to support and drive sustainable projects promoting responsible tourism in Southeast Asia.

Our projects address various socio-cultural, environmental, and economic issues. We are prudent in the way donations are spent and carefully select projects according to the following criteria:

- **Efficiency**
- **Transparency**
- **Relevance**
- **Engagement**



Our Goals

Ensure services to provide for quality education:

- Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, gender sensitive and provide safe, nonviolent, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all.
- Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education.
- Substantially expand the number of scholarships available to communities for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training.
- Provide free English classes for children to make a significant impact on their education and future opportunities.

Ensure services to provide for basic human needs:

- Health services including health checks, health education, and workshops.
- Services that enhance the safety and welfare of the community, such as: solar lighting, water dams, roads, etc.
- Provide safe, decent, affordable housing with safe and healthy living conditions.
- Projects to improve hygiene and provide clean and safe water.
- Projects to protect natural resources and promote sustainable living practices.

Create employment opportunities and economic growth:

- Support public improvement projects in qualifying neighbourhoods.
- Support economic development activities.



Our Achievement

Discova Educational Travel accomplishes this through:

- **Educational services**
- **Project management services**
- **Job creation**
- **Local entrepreneurship development**
- **Community micro credit funds**
- **Community health promotion**

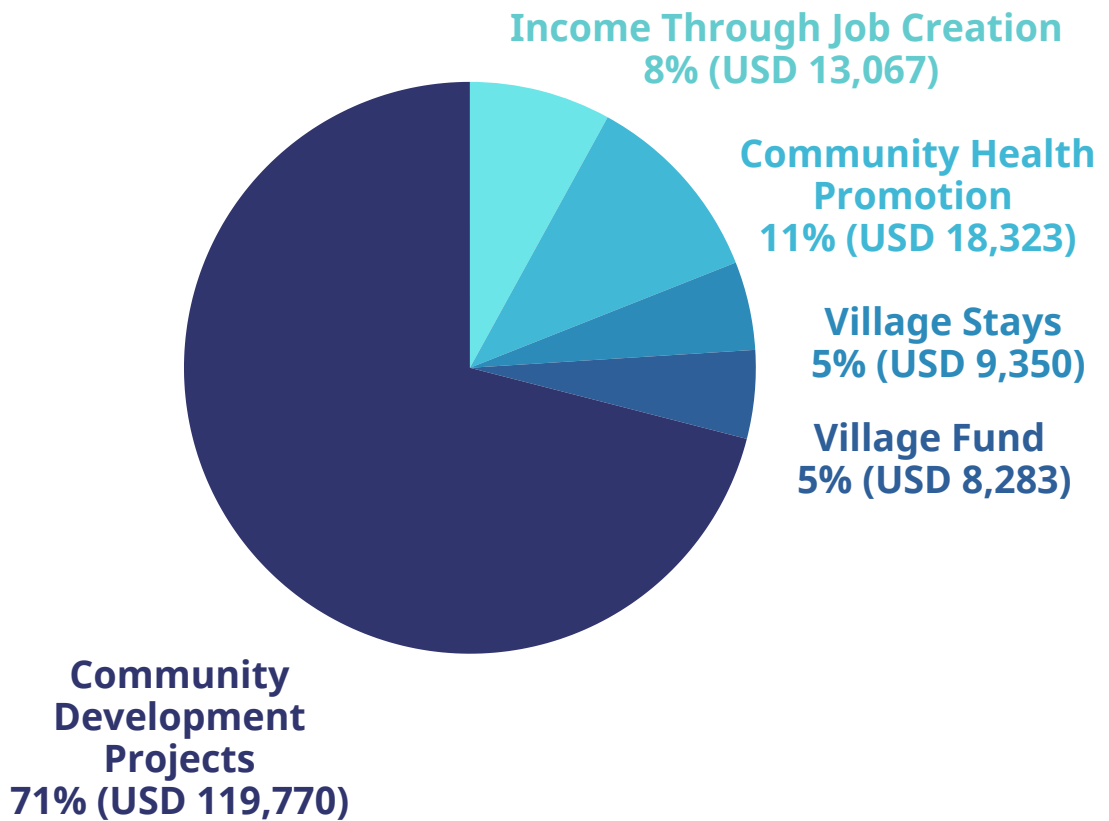
We progressed into the 2024 financial year with a renewed commitment to providing unique on-the-ground educational experiences, looking for opportunities to share our expertise and empower learners.



Our Contributions

Discova Educational Travel had successfully provided direct financial contributions to communities, supported by more than 2,000 clients travelling and fundraising a total of **USD 168,793**.

Contribution in financial year 2024



Community Development Projects

Discova Educational Travel provides professional project management services that allow our clients to effectively contribute to the economic and social development of communities they visit. Project management services are conducted free-of-charge as part of Discova's contribution to community development. In this way we ensure that **100% of client donations go directly to the project**. There are no management or administrative fees.

Projects are usually a limited activity to achieve a specific goal within a specified time frame. This might entail building a school or other village infrastructure or providing professional services. In the financial year 2024, Discova Education Travel successfully managed projects in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand worth **USD 138,093** which focussed on strengthening the education, economy, and healthcare of the local communities we worked in.



Community toilet in Trei Nhoar, Cambodia



Community road in Mai Chau, Vietnam



School toilet in Trei Nhoar, Cambodia



Clinic water tank in Mai Chau, Vietnam

Community Development Projects (continued)

Community development projects

USD 119,770

Project Name	Total cost (in USD)
Chansar and Trei Nhoar, Cambodia	
Four playgrounds built for local schools	4,500
Toilet and water purifier built at Trei Nhoar healthcare clinic	8,000
Toilet and computer class built at Trei Nhoar High School	3,342
89 solar lights installed at Trei Nhoar village	4,450
Chansar English teacher salary covered for one year	1,200
10 scholarships for disadvantaged students at Trei Nohar High School	3,000
Seuang River, Lao PDR	
Construction of Pakkeng High School water tank	5,280
Thailand	
60 solar lights installed at Tung Loy village	4,800
30 solar lights installed and pier renovated at Koh Kerd village	8,800
Mai Chau, Vietnam	
Three roads and two dams built at the Bao La community farm	28,000
254 solar lights installed in Bao La commune	12,700
Four school playgrounds built in Bao La commune	8,500
Construction of Khai Cai village road (on going)	5,948
10 scholarships for disadvantaged students	2,000
English teacher salary covered for one year at Bao La commune	3,600
Mekong Delta, Vietnam	
One social house built in Vinh Long province	2,500
35 solar lights installed at Vinh Long	1,750
Projects collaboration with local NGOs/ Social Enterprises	
Reforestation project in Hoi An, Vietnam	2,000
Education facilities improvement in Da Bac, Vietnam	3,000
Education facilities improvement in Kampot and Battambang, Cambodia	10,000

Project Photos



Playground at Trei Nhoar Primary School



Community playground at Bao La village, Mai Chau



Solar lights in Trei Nhoar, Cambodia



Solar lights in Trei Nhoar, Cambodia



House building in Vinh Long, Vietnam



English class in Mai Chau, Vietnam



Community Health Promotion

Health is a critical factor in poverty alleviation. Poor health can quickly lead to poverty, while health and wellness can lead to prosperity. Discova Educational Travel works with partner agencies, universities, and local health authorities to provide clinical placements for faculty-led medical and nursing students and professionals to remote, hard to access villages. Mobile clinics are conducted to protect, and promote good health through check-ups, vaccinations, and health education. Our clients work in the clinics to treat ailments under the supervision of the local health care practitioners.

The main tasks in these community health programs include:

- Basic health checks and primary healthcare provision
- Skills exchange with health care workers through the course of a working day
- Health education with the community and schools (sanitation, diet and nutrition, dental hygiene etc.)
- Women's workshops focusing on ante and post-natal care

This financial year, Discova's Educational Travel team successfully managed four community health placements, in four communities and served more than 2,500 patients with a funding of **USD 18,323** for medication, equipment and treatment.



Job Creation

The Discova Educational Travel team works long-term with our community partners to develop sustainable community-based educational tourism products. This includes promoting aspects of the local culture to visitors that residents could ultimately benefit from.

We view this as the most fundamental opportunity that a for-profit company can engage in for long-term poverty alleviation. We create sustainable, well-paid employment in rural communities that protect local environments, enhance traditional cultures, and instill community pride through self-reliance.

In 2024, Discova Educational Travel paid wages worth **USD 13,067** for local communities.





Village Stay

Discova Educational Travel provides Village Stays at our community development projects in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand.

There is no better way to experience the local way of life than learning, living, and laughing together with the host community. Participants have the chance to share homes in teams of three or four. Bedding is arranged with fresh sheets, blankets, pillows, and mosquito nets upon arrival. Living is basic and all should expect bucket showers and no hot water. Also, get ready for very basic Asian-style squat toilet. All meals are eaten together as a group and prepared in the village by well-trained local cooks. We can cater to various dietary requirements if we are informed in advance.

Village stays are not only the best way to experience true local lifestyles but also significantly benefit the host community. In 2024, our Village Stays generated a total income of **USD 9,350 for the communities in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand.**



Village Fund

Discova Educational Travel works to ensure equitable distribution of income throughout a community by providing opportunity for all to participate. Unfortunately, this is not always possible. For example, not every household is able to afford a toilet and bathing area required to provide homestay.

To ensure equity in distribution of benefits every guest at one of our communities provides a daily contribution to a community micro credit fund. These funds are managed and administered by the communities for agreed upon improvements. These include road repairs, improving community health and facilities for their guests.

In 2024 we successfully created village fund contributions for a total of **USD 8,283** for the communities.



2024 – 2025 Focus

Through the different projects we fund and support, in the 2025 financial year we expect to keep contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in our destinations of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand on the following issues:

1. Education:



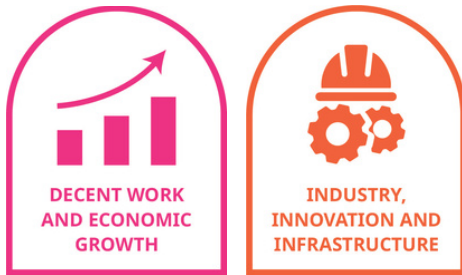
- **Project:**
 - Support school facilities, provide free English training, and fund scholarships for underprivileged students.
 - Support programs that encourage girls/ women to pursue STEM education.
- **Impact:**
 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

2. Well-being



- **Project:**
 - Invest in healthcare facilities and healthcare programs.
- **Impact:**
 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being across all ages.

3. Economic



- **Project:**
 - Invest in vocational training and entrepreneurship programs.
 - Support the renovation of community infrastructure like farming systems, housing, and public areas.
- **Impact:**
 - Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, productive employment, and decent work for all.
 - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable communities.

4. Environment



- **Project Idea:**
 - Fund renewable energy projects and conservation initiatives.
 - Support reforestation and biodiversity projects.
- **Impact:**
 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
 - Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, manage forests sustainably, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

DISCOVA

Join us in building a brighter future for our communities. To learn more or to donate to our projects, write to us at:

educationaltravel@discova.com

