

# DISCOVA

EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL



## Community Development Report

January 2022 - June 2023





# Discova Educational Travel

## Our Vision

---

Deliver experiential and responsible travel for our partners, growing their travel offering one unforgettable journey at a time.

*Make destinations better places for people to live in, and for travellers to visit.*

### What we offer:

- Community project work
- Local community interaction
- Sightseeing tours – to your specification
- Local homestay 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

Visit [discova.com/educational-travel/](https://discova.com/educational-travel/)



## Our Strategy

---

Educational Travel is one of Discova's key travel segments, one which we have dedicated a lot of heart to. We identify communities that have the potential to grow and supply incredible travel experiences, but who need support in various development areas in order to achieve that potential. Together with the communities, we evaluate and determine critical areas for improvement.

Since 2007, the Discova Educational Travel (DET) Team has set up and managed **8 exclusive development projects** to support communities throughout Southeast Asia. Each is different, and some may require multiple smaller projects to achieve our and the communities' ultimate development goals. Additionally, we work with NGOs and social enterprises to support and drive sustainable projects, in order to promote and grow responsible tourism.

Our projects address various socio-cultural, environmental and economic issues. Clients and visiting student groups are essential in realising the projects that are chosen. We are **prudent in the way donations are spent and carefully select projects** according to the following criteria:

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





## Our Goals

---

### **Provide services for quality education**

- Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, 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 enrollment in higher education, including vocational training.

### **Provide services for basic human needs**

- Improved health services.
- Services that enhance the safety and welfare of the community.
- Provide safe, decent and affordable housing.

### **Create employment opportunities and economic growth**

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





## How We Do It

---

Discova Educational Travel accomplishes the above goals by providing and supporting:

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

We progressed into the January 2022 to June 2023 period with a renewed commitment to providing unique on-the-ground educational experiences, looking for opportunities to share our expertise and empower learners from all over the world.



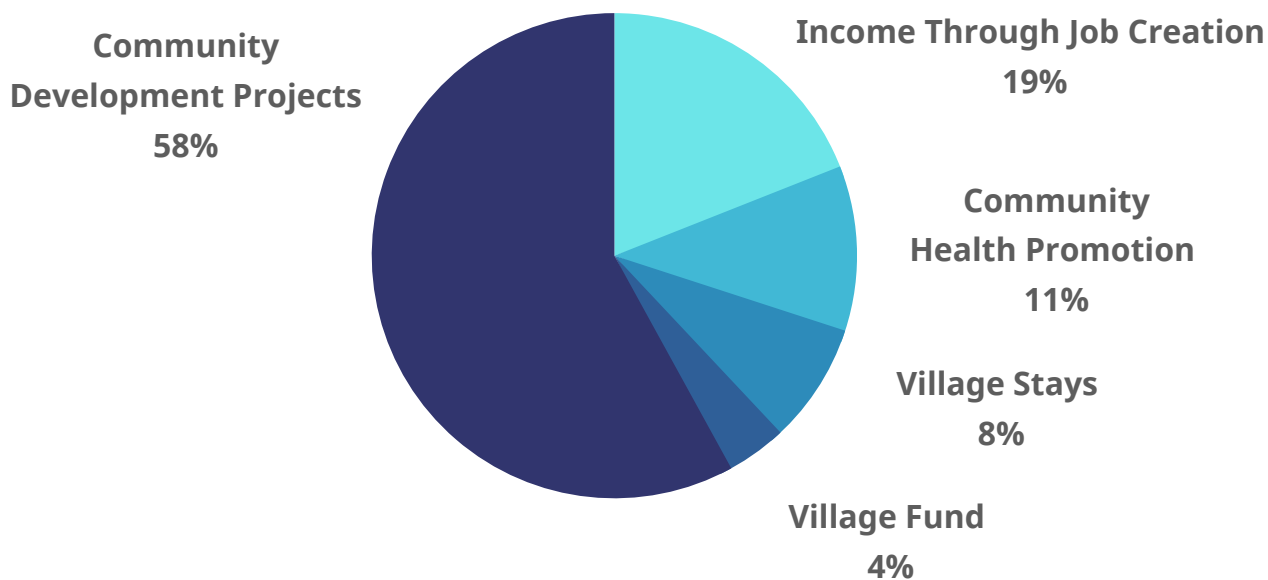
## Client Contributions

---

Our clients are the sole reason we can achieve what we do. Thanks to the educational tours they book with us and the generous donations they have made, we were able to raise funds for various important sectors within the communities we work with.

From January 2022 to June 2023, DET successfully provided direct financial contributions to various communities, **supported by 1,321 travellers and a fundraising contribution totaling USD 151,865.**

### Fundraising contribution of USD 151,865 in 2022-2023





# 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 the 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 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 2022-2023, DET successfully managed **17 projects in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand**. These focused on educational, economic and healthcare needs, with total cost for all amounting to **USD 88,842**.







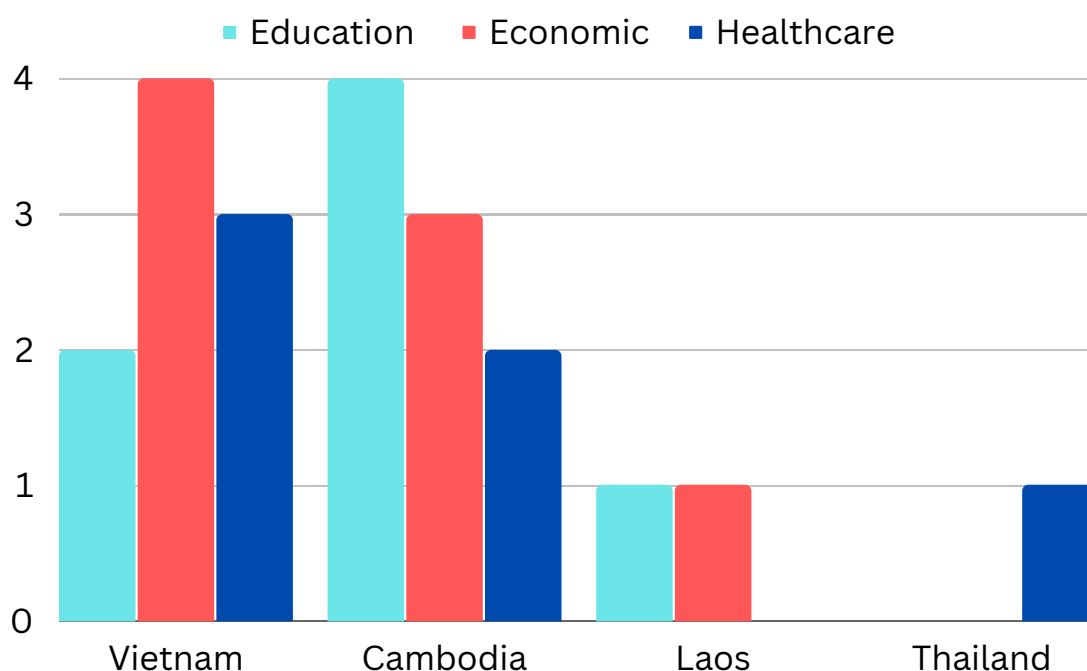
# Community Development Projects (continued)

Community development projects in 2022-2023

USD 88,842

Project type	Total cost (in USD)
<b>Mai Chau, Vietnam</b>	
Bao La community farm access	\$52,000
Khai Cai village road (on-going)	\$5,000
Scholarships for local students	\$2,000
<b>Mekong Delta, Vietnam</b>	
Vinh Long social housing building projects (4 houses built)	\$16,000
<b>Chansar and Trei Nhoar, Cambodia</b>	
Chansar learning hub playground	\$1,500
Trei Nhoar healthcare clinic infrastructure improvement	\$4,000
Trei Nhoar high school facilities improvement	\$3,342
<b>Seuang River, Lao PDR</b>	
Pakkeng high school water tank (on-going)	\$3,000
<b>Om Goi, Thailand</b>	
Tung Loy village light system	\$2,000

## Number of projects according to category



# Income Through Job Creation

---

Discova Educational Travel works long-term with our community partners to develop sustainable community-led educational tourism products. This includes promoting aspects of local culture and unique geographical characteristics into jobs that local people can share with visitors. We view this as the most fundamental opportunity that a for-profit company can do 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 2022-2023, DET successfully generated **USD 28,350 in total wages paid to local communities.**





# Village Stays

Discova Educational Travel provides village stays at our community development projects in Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao 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 3 or 4. Bedding is arranged with fresh sheets, blankets, pillows and mosquito nets upon arrival. Living is basic and visitors should expect bucket showers and no hot water. They should also be prepared for the very basic Asian-style squat toilet. All meals are eaten together as a group and prepared in the village by well-trained local cooks. Our DET Team 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 are also a significant economic benefit for the host community. Our clients' groups successfully supported village stays with a total accommodation fee contribution of **USD 11,903 for communities in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand.**





# Village Funds

---

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

To ensure equity in distribution of benefits, every guest that visits 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, community health advancements and improving facilities for their guests.

In the period 2022-2023, DET successfully generated a total of **USD 5,770 in village fund** contributions for the communities.





# Community Health Promotion

Health is a critical factor in poverty alleviation. Poor health can quickly lead to exacerbated poverty, while health and wellness can lead to prosperity. That's why DET 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 control, protect and promote health through check-ups, vaccinations and health education. The visiting students work in the clinics to treat ailments under 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 your 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

In 2022-2023, DET successfully managed **4 community health care placements in over 4 communities, serving more than 850 patients.** This was coupled with a total contribution of **USD 17,000 for medication, equipment and treatment.**







## New Horizons in the Americas

---

In 2019, Discova was born from a merger between two smaller DMCs – Buffalo Tours in Asia and Olympus Tours in the Americas. It was Buffalo Tours who had spearheaded the segment we now call Discova Educational Travel. Since this merger, we have assessed where – and how – we could best expand our meaningful DET work to our Americas destinations.

**In the past year we set our sights on Costa Rica, renowned for its biodiversity and its safety.**

Thanks to the direction of one of our suppliers, we identified a **community in the Dota canton of the Los Santos Zone who would benefit from our DET support**. The community is about a 2-hour drive from San Jose centre, making it easily accessible for our team and visiting educational groups.

The community struggles both on an economic and educational level:

- The average monthly income of families in this community is about USD 400/month, lower than average in Costa Rica.
- About 60-70% of children here continue on to high school education, and of those only about 2% go on to study at university.

We established that one of the best ways our clients and visiting groups could support the progress and elevate the livelihoods of the people here was to **focus on education**. Earlier this year we trained the team here on precisely how to initiate the development project. We're currently establishing a concrete implementation plan and hope to receive visiting students to begin building up the envisioned project by 2024.

Read more about our plans here: [\*\*Discova Educational Travel in Costa Rica\*\*](#)





## 2024 Focus

At Discova, we are committed to creating meaningful programs for schools and universities, as well as running fundraising campaigns to support the most needed projects in our destinations. Our aim is continue to support existing long-term projects and seek out new communities who stand to benefit immeasurably from the positive impact of educational travel.

All the projects will be carried out under the guidelines of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on 4 key areas:

1. **Education**
2. **Economic**
3. **Environment**
4. **Partnership and collaboration to reach the goals**



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD





**Opening doors to a world of possibilities.**



# DISCOVA

Tours • Transfers • Experiences

Request a quote, book a meeting, ask a  
question, or share a dream

**[educationaltravel@discova.com](mailto:educationaltravel@discova.com)**

