

Global Impact Report 2016

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Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the Projects Abroad Global Impact Report 2016. In this brief report you will find highlights of our year, showing the real, meaningful change which our community of volunteers, staff and placement partners have achieved in the last twelve months.

A note on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 goals set by the United Nations to follow on from the Millennium Development Goals. Projects Abroad supports the Sustainable Development Goals. Alongside many sections of this report you will see an icon for the corresponding SDG. These logos are for informational purposes, to highlight the bigger picture each action is contributing towards. Our input may be relatively small compared to the thousands of actions being taken towards the SDGs globally, but we believe that every contribution, however minor, adds up.

Projects Abroad
supports the the SDGs.



Logos are used in accordance with the SDG guidelines for use, available here:
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/news/communications-material/>

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS



To volunteers

You might have already returned from your project, or maybe you have yet to embark on your adventure. Either way, this report will show you the differences being made in communities all over the world thanks to your input. We appreciate the investment of time, money and energy you make to volunteer, and hope to show you in the pages that follow that your involvement, combined with thousands of other likeminded volunteers, is all contributing to long-term development goals. We also do not underestimate the impact that volunteering abroad has on you, your life, your perspective and your choices for the future. If the impact volunteering has on you is anywhere near as positive as the impact you have on communities, we are proud to have done our job well.

To staff

Not one of the achievements which follow would have been possible without you. Through creative and ambitious teams in over 40 countries, we have built a community of support and development. Our values of Community, Contribution, Company and Culture are brought to life every day through your hard work and energy. Seeing the accumulated successes of just 12 months demonstrates the potential of our dedicated, driven and diverse teams to make great things happen all over the world. Thank you for being part of our team this year.

To partners

Thank you for your ongoing connection with our volunteers and our organisation. We are proud to provide support to hundreds of placements including schools, day care centres, care homes, national parks, governmental organisations, grassroots community groups and businesses. Your compassion and commitment to communities and the environment is an inspiration to us. We look forward to continued partnerships dedicated to achieving our shared goals.

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JANUARY

206 local teachers attended our Teacher Training in Peru - volunteers introduce creative teaching methods, with the support of the Ministry of Education



Our Social Impact

Education

Improving English & Literacy

Through our Care projects, we evaluate access to literacy resources in 70 schools, day care centres and orphanages worldwide. Following this assessment, we target the exact areas of need for each placement by creating resources and introducing activities to the placement's schedule. Through this structured programme we have improved access to basic literacy materials – including writing materials, flashcards, local language books and English books. There is still a lot of work to be done to promote Literacy Rich Environments and this can be achieved through assessment and targeted intervention, tracked on our Impact Database, as seen below. This programme is being expanded to selected Teaching projects for 2017, to ensure that thousands of volunteers are working towards the same long term goal.



LITERACY TASK OBJECTIVES

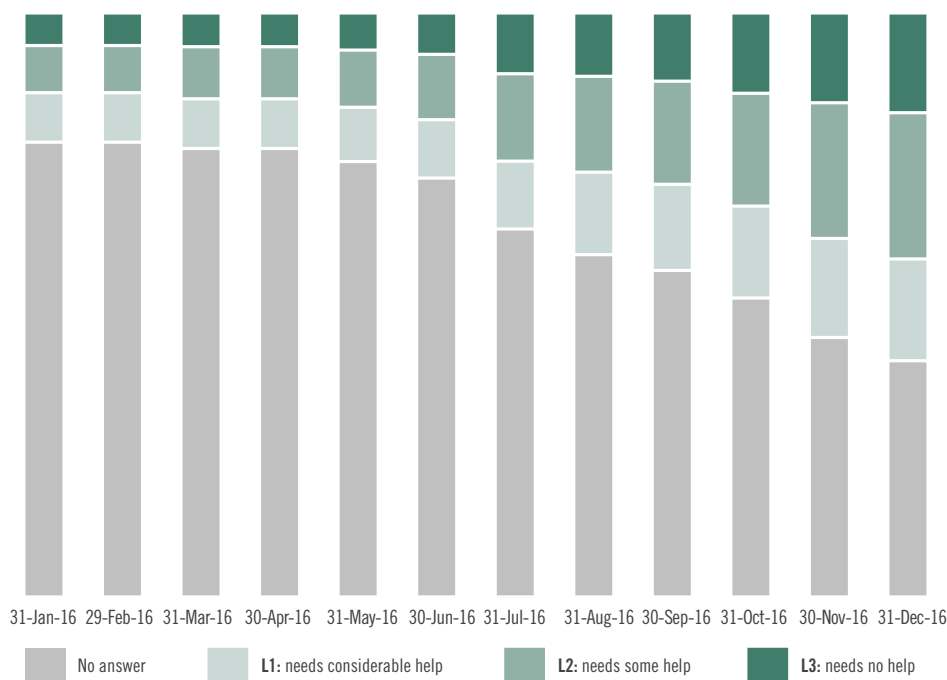


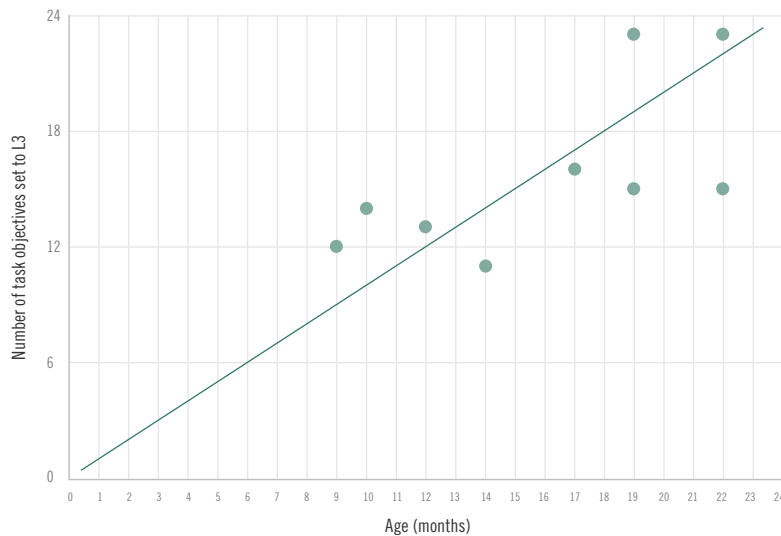
Figure 1. Progress being made globally in data collection and access to literacy resources



FEBRUARY

Nepal Disaster Relief work begins on rebuilding the sixth school damaged by the 2015 earthquakes





This graph shows the developmental progress of a group of children aged 4 to 6 at a community day care centre in Cambodia. Children under the diagonal line (which represents expected development rates) receive targeted support from volunteers. The graph is taken from our Impact Database, our secure platform used for tracking progress in Teaching, Care and Medical projects.

Promoting Early Childhood Development

One of our priorities as an organisation is the assessment and promotion of Early Childhood Development. We measure the rate at which children in our placements are developing fundamental physical, motor, cognitive, language, emotional and social abilities in early years. Through this research, we are identifying developmental trends by location, gender and type of institution – for example residential care versus community care. We have generated individual developmental profiles for 2,708 children.

We have generated individual Early Childhood Development profiles for 2,708 children.

Physical

1. Holds crayon between thumb and 2 fingers
2. Can hop for count of 10 seconds
3. Washes and dries hands
4. Eats using fork
5. Can use zips and velcro
6. Can brush teeth with supervision
7. Shows left / right hand preference
8. Somersaults

Level 1
Never
observed



Level 2
Sometimes
observed



Level 3
Frequently
observed



Figure 2. Extract from Early Childhood Development assessment, age range 4 to 6 years old.



MARCH

Peru Archaeology project starts work on a new site



Creative Education

Every child has different educational needs and learning styles, which puts a strain on under-resourced schools in the developing world. In 2016, more than 725 teaching volunteers supported local educators around the world. Alongside assisting their daily classes, volunteers also led many creative education programmes, to give teachers and students alike a break from the classroom routine. Creative education programmes run by Projects Abroad Teaching volunteers include:

- Reading workshops for 150 children in the blood cancer ward of a hospital in Hanoi, Vietnam
- Science club for 50 children in Krabi, Thailand
- Creative thinking workshops for 11 school children in San Pedro, Belize
- Weekly Read & Feed programmes in Ghana and Togo, where children receive nutritious meals while volunteers help them with their reading and run book donations.
- Drama and storytelling workshops for children in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- Volunteers in a rural rehabilitation centre in Vietnam designed a picture booklet to help children with special needs communicate with peers, staff and volunteers.
- Implementation of Activity Based Learning in schools in Krabi, Thailand. This child-centred approach has already seen 303 children become better socialised and spend fewer hours watching television.



Holiday Schools

The idea of school during the holidays may not seem high on a child's list of priorities, but when volunteers run their holiday programmes, they mix sports, games and creative learning to make holiday school engaging and fun. This gives the children a chance to learn in a new environment and keeps them engaged in education. In 2016 we welcomed 615 children to holiday school projects in Ghana, Fiji, South Africa, Togo and Thailand, to name a few.

Community Education

While children's education is a main focus for most teaching programmes worldwide, Projects Abroad programmes also recognise the need for community education for adults.

Volunteers in Vietnam provided college students with free English lessons to complement their studies. In San Cristobal on the Galapagos Islands, 80 members of the local community attended English lessons run by Projects Abroad volunteers. Volunteers in Peru ran English lessons for all 30 members of the local Ministry of Culture office. In Tanzania all recipients of loans through Micro-finance are given a literacy assessment, and if they need help with literacy or numeracy for their business, volunteers run classes for them. Next year we want to expand our community education efforts, and improve access to education for even more communities.



APRIL

To mark World Book Day, volunteers in both Togo and Cambodia ran Mobile Library projects, bringing reading and writing materials to children in disadvantaged communities



Human Rights

Our Human Rights projects aim to improve access to legal aid and human rights education to their communities. This is done through awareness campaigns, legal clinics and social justice projects. There were many achievements from our Human Rights programmes in 2016.

The Human Rights project in Tanzania gave legal assistance to allow for the justified release of 69 out of 75 children from a juvenile detention centre. In Cordoba, Argentina, the Projects Abroad Human Rights project took part in campaigns against paedophilia, human trafficking, femicide, domestic violence, the recent 500% increase in public service costs, medical workers' rights and education conditions. They also coordinated the publication of a book about the legal rights of children in residential care. This was in addition to their ongoing work providing ID cards for disadvantaged members of the local community. The legal clinic saw 165 cases opened in 2016. Our project in Ghana also ran many awareness campaigns on domestic violence and child trafficking prevention. A volunteer on a Human Rights Project in Mongolia received a grant from the US embassy for the 2 year implementation of their LGBT Rights project proposal.

Projects Abroad Human Rights Office (PAHRO) runs legal clinics in townships across Cape Town, South Africa. This year, 25,152 hours of free legal services were provided and 235 cases were closed. These cases include refugee and immigration cases, family law, property rights and the provision of ID cards, birth certificates, disability assistance and social security. 474 open cases remain open, which will be worked on in 2017.



CASE STUDY

A major milestone this year was the long-awaited conclusion of a resettlement case that was brought to our Cape Town Human Rights office in 2012. A female refugee, who has suffered unspeakable horrors in her past, has had her application for resettlement approved by the UNHCR, and she will be moving to the USA in November. This successful outcome is all thanks to the persistent efforts of Projects Abroad volunteers and staff over the past four years.



MAY

The Fiji 7s rugby coach, who led the team to Gold in the Rio Olympics, helped us to spread awareness by joining our Conservation volunteers planting mangroves





CASE STUDY: The Refugee Project in Calabria, Italy.

In 2016 we started working across the southern coast of Italy, to provide support in the region's efforts to aid refugees and economic migrants from overseas. This project focuses primarily on centres for unaccompanied minors, children who arrive to Italy without their parents. These children are supported in local centres through the long registration process they face. Our volunteers have provided education, extra-curricular activities and support to 50 children. Volunteers have been particularly instrumental in helping two new arrivals to integrate to one of the centres.



Empowering Women

According to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platform, gender inequality is still a significant barrier to development across the world. Several of our projects work with women and men to ensure that human rights, property, enterprise and education are available to all, regardless of gender.

Human Rights and Micro-finance volunteers in Arusha, Tanzania, work with 100 women in six community groups. Human Rights volunteers provide information and assistance for women going through difficulties with divorce, property rights, inheritance and family rights. In Ghana, 74 women received loans and training through our Micro-finance programme. Throughout the processes of selection, training, planning, implementation and monitoring, disadvantaged women are provided with the resources and tools needed to run their own businesses. Through our Community Project in Vietnam, volunteers worked with a group of 20 disabled women from an ethnic minority community. Volunteers helped to improve their earning potential by developing their businesses selling artisan products.

Our Nutrition and Medicine programmes regularly focus on antenatal and new-born care. In Cape Town, South Africa, our locally employed dietician and Nutrition Project volunteers work with young mothers on breastfeeding and infant nutrition programmes.

In Argentina our medical outreaches work to improve access to healthcare for women, including assisting medical professionals in conducting breast and cervical cancer screening for 150 women. In Nepal similar awareness and breast cancer screening was provided to 70 women in a disadvantaged area of the capital.

In Cambodia, our community-based Care projects work with a local organisation specialising in providing daily childcare to 600 children allowing their mothers to seek full time employment.

In 2017 we are working to open specific Women's Empowerment projects for volunteers in Tanzania, Costa Rica, Sri Lanka and Bolivia.



JUNE

World Oceans Day is celebrated by our Cambodia Conservation project, running workshops at a school on the remote island of Koh Sdach



Healthcare

Hygiene & Sanitation

Every year millions of the world's poorest people die from preventable diseases caused by inadequate water supply and sanitation services. Women and children are at the greatest risk. Using a measurement tool which examines hygiene in placements including cleanliness, food preparation, personal hygiene and sanitation facilities, our volunteers assessed and improved hygiene standards in 68 placements during 2016.

In Cambodia, Ghana and Kenya we helped to foster good hygiene habits by building simple handwashing stations for children to wash their hands before each meal and after play. In Ghana and Togo we also trained placement staff in ways to make cheap homemade soap.

Access to suitable toilet facilities is essential for good community health. In Ghana, Nepal and Jamaica, our volunteers have constructed toilet blocks for schools, improving sanitation for thousands of children. In Jamaica, we work with the local Parish Councils to construct sanitation facilities for some of the most vulnerable members of the community: the elderly, those living with disabilities and one parent families.

In Bolivia charges for water consumption are high. At a centre for children with disabilities whose families cannot support them, volunteers constructed a water recycling unit, where waste water could be reused in the bathrooms, leading to more efficient use of water and more affordable access to sanitation resources.



JULY

We hit our busiest time of year, with 2,176 new arrivals worldwide this month. A lot of airport runs for our Volunteer Coordinators!





Projects Abroad supports the SDGs.



Over 6,000 people have directly benefited from community outreaches and awareness activities aimed at nutrition in Argentina, Belize, Philippines, Jamaica, Samoa, Bolivia and South Africa.

Nutrition

Our volunteers have seen first-hand that many developing countries are currently facing a dual crisis of nutrition issues - with malnutrition stunting growth, while obesity and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are on the increase.

Volunteers on Nutrition and Public Health programmes have assisted local professionals on a large number of outreach activities. This included testing the blood pressure and blood sugar level of 175 patients in Belize, where 70% were found to be high risk for developing NCDs. In Argentina 600 people were tested and 30 referred for diabetes or high blood pressure. In South Africa, volunteers worked with Chronic Disease Support Groups to give advice and assessment at a total of eighty-eight workshops.

Education and awareness surrounding nutrition issues is equally important. Over 6,000 people have directly benefited from community outreaches and awareness activities aimed at nutrition in Argentina, Belize, Philippines, Jamaica, Samoa, Bolivia and South Africa. Communities, children, athletes, patients and support groups were given healthy recipes, information about NCDs, support and advice surrounding healthy eating and lifestyle.

As well as providing tests and information, our programmes also provided healthy meals for at-risk groups. Volunteers in South Africa provided over 14,000 meals, including at holiday school (1,800 meals), to disadvantaged youths at the Surfing Project (860 meals), 104 soup kitchens and 12,000 meals distributed to children in local communities.



AUGUST

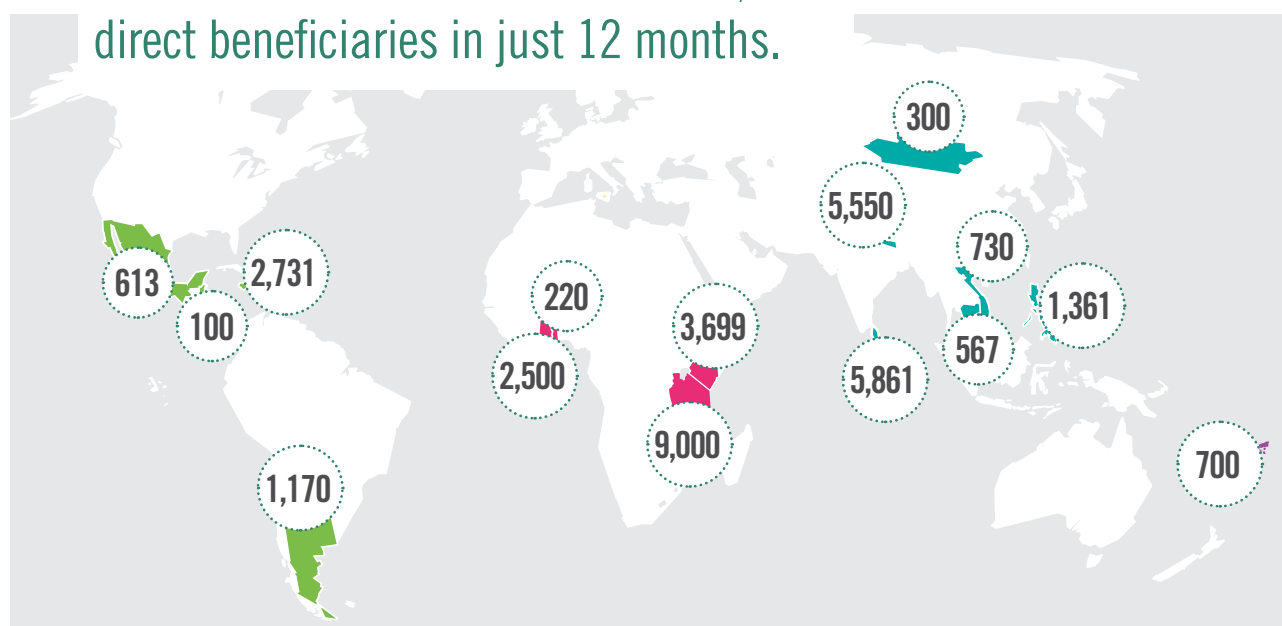
High School Special season comes to an end, having renovated more than 50 classrooms worldwide



Outreach

The World Health Organization estimates that 400 million people lack access to basic healthcare. Volunteers who take part in our medical outreaches work alongside local professionals to improve access to basic medical care for disadvantaged groups. This includes both awareness programmes and basic testing. Our awareness includes:

Our medical outreaches reached 35,102 direct beneficiaries in just 12 months.



ARGENTINA

Awareness programmes on oral hygiene and tips to avoid influenza and mosquito-borne diseases. Breast and cervical tests provided, and tests aimed at detecting heart disease.

Direct beneficiaries: 1,170

BELIZE

Health Fair where community members had their blood pressure, blood glucose and kidney function tested

Direct beneficiaries: 100

JAMAICA

12 outreaches in schools and 10 dental clinics

Direct beneficiaries: 2,000 children in schools and 731 at dental clinics

MEXICO

17 outreaches covering basic healthcare

Direct beneficiaries: 613

GHANA

Weekly outreaches to a leprosy camp to provide basic medical care. Regular outreaches in markets, communities, schools, including life-saving malaria screening.

Direct beneficiaries: 2,500

KENYA

36 Medical outreaches including regular deworming programmes.

Direct beneficiaries: 3,699

TANZANIA

90 medical outreaches conducted across two regions, including a mobile clinic

Direct beneficiaries: 9,000

TOGO

Regular Public Health outreaches focusing on hygiene, health education and basic healthcare

Direct beneficiaries: 200 orphans and 20 street children

CAMBODIA

Public Health community visits, including care centres, provincial home visits and island community visits

Direct beneficiaries: 567, including 127 on the remote island of Koh Sdach

MONGOLIA

11 outreaches focusing on basic first aid and healthcare for disadvantaged and homeless communities

Direct beneficiaries: 300

NEPAL

Regular outreaches, including dental check-ups for the homeless and malnutrition screenings in schools

Direct beneficiaries: 5,550

PHILIPPINES

Public Health outreaches cross 16 communities

Direct beneficiaries: 1,361 (55% were at identified as at risk of developing non communicable diseases)

SRI LANKA

43 medical camps providing free vital signs check-ups and assisting with free medication where prescribed

Direct beneficiaries: 5,861

VIETNAM

Reproductive health education, HIV awareness, first aid training, disability care check-ups and awareness programmes on the zika virus, skin cancer, tooth decay and pneumonia.

Direct beneficiaries: 730

FIJI

Fight the Bite campaign to educate communities about mosquito borne diseases

Direct beneficiaries: 700

NOTE: qualified medical professionals provide training and supervise outreaches at all times. Any cases beyond the scope of the outreach can be referred to doctors for follow up.

Our Environmental Impact

Restoring Forests

Volunteers in Fiji, Kenya, Mongolia, Togo, Ecuador, Madagascar, Costa Rica, Cambodia and Thailand ran tree planting initiatives in 2016. In Fiji alone we planted 14,820 mangroves, and built nurseries for thousands more. The emphasis on mangroves in Fiji, Thailand and Cambodia is no coincidence. Mangroves protect the coastline from erosion and storms, provide an ideal habitat for juvenile fish (including sharks) and absorb several times more carbon than tropical forests per hectare.

Moving inland, the Costa Rica Conservation Project in Barra Honda national park planted 1,500 native species of trees to promote the natural balance of the local ecosystem, while in Madagascar, one of our newest destinations, 390 indigenous trees were planted during the year.

On the Galapagos Islands, five acres of invasive species were removed and 8 petrel bird nests were protected.

AN UPDATE FROM THE PERUVIAN AMAZON

Our project in the Amazon Rainforest has been running for over 15 years and the project is going from strength to strength. In 2016:

- The 5th group of spider monkeys was released into the wild as part of our pioneering reintroduction programme.
- Our 4th spectacled bear was housed in our rescue centre, having been rescued from the circus.
- For the 3rd time, a new species of bird was confirmed by our volunteers in Peru.
- We were declared the 2nd best Animal Care centre in the whole of Peru.
- And we led the 1st ever relocation of a jaguar in Peru.

Pollution Control

Our volunteers removed 17,398 kilograms (over 17 tonnes) of rubbish from coastlines, communities, nature reserves and national parks in 2016. Over one tonne was collected underwater, during dives in Thailand and Cambodia. These clean-ups are essential to preserving the habitats of local flora and fauna, but sadly they are not a one-off event. Each time we return to clean-up sites, there is more man-made rubbish to be collected. To combat this, we also work on awareness campaigns through Conservation projects.

In Fiji, our pioneering Shark Conservation Project is implementing a plan to make popular tourist resort carbon neutral. The resort staff, management and guests plant mangroves, minimise waste and spread awareness with the help of our volunteers. In Thailand, as well as educating local school children about healthy reefs, our project also works with local restaurants to minimise use of plastic and styrofoam food containers, which inevitably end up polluting the famous dive sites nearby.

The staff and volunteers in Barra Honda, Costa Rica, helped five schools to be awarded a Blue Flag for their awareness campaigns and bio-gardens designed to stop pollution of wastewater. Recycling stations were also set up in Thailand. In Botswana and Kenya over 500 snares and more than 25 kilometers of wire were removed to prevent injuries to protected wildlife.

Many communities we work with rely on their pristine environments to generate income through tourism and fishing industries. We pass on all clean-up data to local authorities so that they can implement stricter policies on pollution and preserve the environment they rely on.



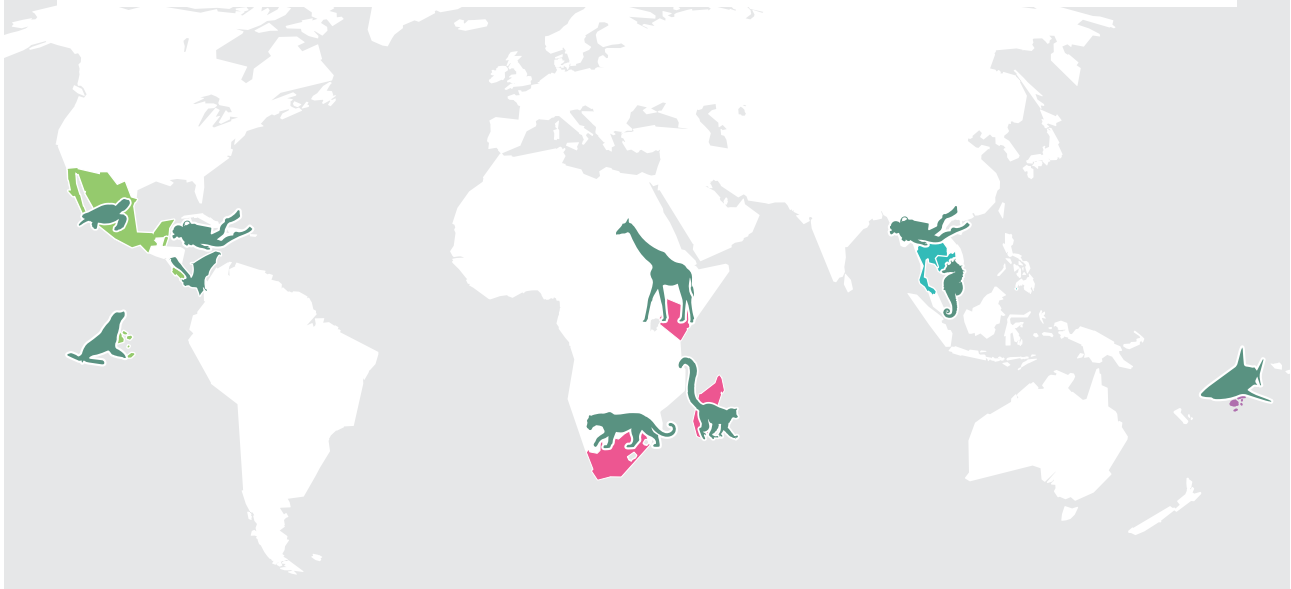
SEPTEMBER

Operations start in Burma (Myanmar), where volunteers teach English to children in a monastery, and provide care in a school for the deaf.



Data Collection

To protect the environment, we need to collect information to better understand the condition and potential threats to local flora and fauna. Through Conservation Project data collection, we have been able to analyse and share information which will help national parks and local authorities guide policy and focus their efforts where they are most needed. Some of the research conducted this year includes:



BELIZE

Supporting **four Marine Protected Areas**

ECUADOR

Monitoring **166 tortoises** and **260 new-born sea lions**

COSTA RICA

Camera traps caught **162 photos** including an **armadillo**, an **ocelot** and **11 skunks**. Other data collection involved **916 bats**, **614 monkeys**, **21 scarlet macaw**, **1392 butterflies**

MEXICO

98,751 turtle eggs were gathered and protected from poachers. The total number of hatchlings released on our Conservation Project in Mexico is now **over 2 million**.

KENYA

192 giraffe surveys, **384 hours of lion monitoring** and motion sensor cameras picking up **1,200 images** for our mammal census

MADAGASCAR

Identifying **six species of lemur** (including one endangered species) and **56 endangered plant species**

SOUTH AFRICA

Camera traps on the Reserve produced a couple of first sightings for us including a **baby brown hyena**, a **honey badger**, a **leopard** and an **aardvark** seen for the first time on our cameras.

CAMBODIA

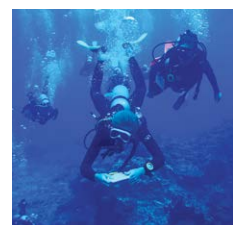
Identifying **50 seahorses** - including two pregnant males!

THAILAND

582 fish surveys to study the distribution of fish compared to the health of the reef

FIJI CONSERVATION

Through **352 survey dives** and **45 Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) drops**, Projects Abroad was one of the top five data contributors to global monitoring platforms SharkBase and eShark.



OCTOBER

Phonics programme in Belize starts, with 54 children enrolled



Our Economic Impact

We directly employ over 600 staff annually in our destination countries, and hundreds more drivers, host families, guesthouses and service staff receive steady incomes from Projects Abroad.

We also believe that by providing manpower for infrastructure and construction, we can provide communities with tools for self-sustainability. For this reason we focus on sustainable building projects in many destinations.

CASE STUDY: Nepal Disaster Relief

The Disaster Relief project in Nepal started in June 2015, after the devastating April 2015 earthquake. The goal of this project was to rebuild schools destroyed by the earthquake to allow children to continue their education in a proper place.

Since the beginning of this project, 8 schools have been rebuilt in the Kathmandu Valley. Another school is under construction and expected to be completed by next March. Within these schools, a total of 96 classrooms have been rebuilt.



Self-sustainability

Through the work of volunteers, we have been able to give many partners the tools they need to become more self-sufficient.

Kenya - High School Special volunteers constructed cow sheds

in a local Hospice for the elderly and terminally ill. Now the placement can safely manage livestock and provide dairy products for the residents.

In Jamaica, volunteers built a chicken coop

for a member of the community living with disabilities. This project will provide him with a source of income. A small farm was also built for a special needs care centre, to provide food and skills training.

In Barra Honda, Costa Rica we have constructed a biodigester

- the first of its kind in any national park in Central America. The biodigester uses wastewater to produce methane gas, which fuels cooking and produces energy.

We built the first eco-stoves in Andasibe, Madagascar.

These stoves are installed in family homes, and reduce fuel consumption and allow families to boil water to make it safe to drink.

Schools in Peru and South Africa benefitted from organic vegetable gardens,

and 20 gardens were also planted in townships of Cape Town. In Cape Town 52 knitting & sewing workshops were also held, so that beneficiaries could generate income in local markets.

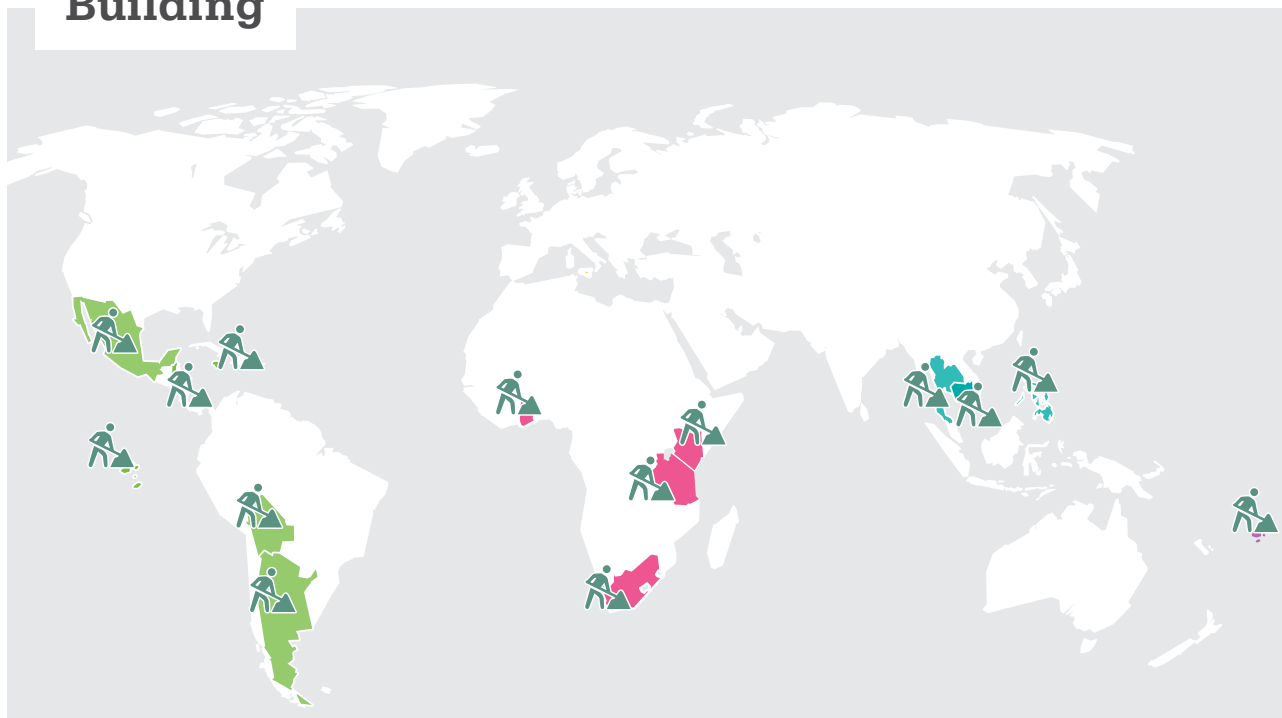


NOVEMBER

Samoa Nutrition volunteers work with the national Special Olympics team and coaches



Building



ARGENTINA

Designed and built a **library** and **video library** in a day care centre for children from low income families

BELIZE

Two **houses** protected from erosion damage after Hurricane Earl

ECUADOR

Ten **classroom** painting projects

JAMAICA

Built one **school bathroom block**, renovated two **schools**, built one **playground**, and two **community houses**

MEXICO

A **hydrotherapy area** in a Centre for Muscular Dystrophy was restored

PERU

Renovating a **school** close to archaeology site Pikillaqta, painting traditional games on floor of **care centres**, building **school furniture**

BOTSWANA

Repaired **roads** to improve access to nature reserve, erecting **windmills** to power a water pump during severe drought, building a **weir** to catch rainwater for animals

GHANA

Four **classrooms** built, **teachers bungalow**, **toilet block**, renovation of seven **schools**, eight **bookshelves** built for each classroom

KENYA

A **football field** was cleared for children to enjoy

TANZANIA

Four **classrooms** constructed, two more underway, plus construction of a **teacher's house** for our Maasai school

CAMBODIA CONSERVATION

Painted four **classrooms** on the island school

PHILIPPINES

Rebuilt two **schools**, repaired four **houses**, built one house, built three **classrooms**, renovated another classroom and a **playground**, benefitting 2,126 students

THAILAND

Five **educational murals** in schools

FIJI

Donations for 40 families after Cyclone Winston **Greenhouses** built and **kindergartens** renovated
Built four **mangrove nurseries**, each with a capacity of 10,000 plants



DECEMBER

Ashtan Davids, a student of our South Africa Surfing project who has cerebral palsy, took part in the Adaptive Surfing Championships



In 2016 thousands of volunteers
took the journey to:

ProjectsAbroad

