

# ANNUAL REPORT

## GVI LAOS





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# INTRODUCTION

## GVI LAOS



GVI Laos was founded in July 2009, so this year marked GVI's 10 year anniversary in Laos. Over the past ten years we have seen some incredible achievements by the students and community members we've worked with. We've seen hundreds of students coming to our classes and going on to seek gainful employment in the tourism and hospitality sector. It's hard to go to any restaurant, café, guesthouse or hotel in Luangprabang without the employees

recognizing the name "GVI." We've also seen scores of students sponsored at educational institutions from primary school to university, both nationally and abroad. We've seen partners come and go, and grow. And we've seen students go on to accomplish some incredible personal achievements as well, including earning full scholarships to study at university in the US and Canada!



# GVI MISSION

GVI is a movement of people who share a common goal, which is to work together and contribute towards positive development in the world. The organisation bridges the industries of international development, travel, and education. It was born from a desire to see a higher degree of local collaboration and a longer-term impact on international volunteer programs. GVI's mission has remained unchanged for the last 20 years: we aim to build a global network of people united by their passion to make a difference.

GVI is always striving to improve into the future, and has set three main focuses of our 20-year goal. These are as follows:

- Long term collaborative impact on all stakeholders
- Providing 360 support for all of our participants and other stakeholders
- Increasing the employability or access to higher education of all of our stakeholders

In Laos, GVI's overarching objective is to contribute to sustainable development through education, sponsorships and local partnerships.



# GVI'S OBJECTIVES

GVI aims to empower people to take action on key local and global issues. People need the opportunity to engage with these issues and better understand how they may be affecting their own lives and the lives of others. By providing platforms for personal development, GVI enables individuals to better understand how their own choices and actions, and the choices and actions of others, may be impacting upon local and global matters. We know that for growth, people need to feel empowered to evaluate their own abilities, and have the opportunity to build upon them, to make alternative choices that more positively influence the world. This in turn enables them to critically review and revise their own personal, academic / professional and community choices in terms of their potential influence on certain issues.

By uniting participants, staff, community members & partner organisations we can look to expand our reach and increase the range of development in the following key areas;

- Number of stakeholders
- Number of locations of operations
- Number of collaborative project initiatives
- Total number of workshops / training sessions
- Total number of alumni
- Number of partners we are working with to influence policy and regulations
- Number of collaborative online, social media, papers and reports, presentations, workshops and outreach
- Number of organisations within our supportive networks





# GVI LAOS

## OBJECTIVES



GVI Laos has 5 major long term objectives that help to ensure that all our programs focus on working towards community development through education, local leadership, improving quality of life, and increasing opportunities for community members.

1. To develop relationships with educational institutions and individuals with the aim of increasing their ability to provide educational opportunities
2. To improve quality of education in Laos for students taught by GVI and local teachers
3. To provide educational opportunities to all students in the local community, regardless of socio-economic status, ethnicity and gender
4. Improving the health and wellbeing of the Lao community
5. Improving employment opportunities and socioeconomic status of community members.



# UNSDG #4

## QUALITY EDUCATION

The foundations of all of our programs are based in increasing access to quality education. GVI Laos is working towards UNSDG #4, Quality Education by increasing the number of sponsorships and scholarships awarded to local students through our partnership with the GVI Trust. We also aim to increase the number of qualified trained teachers through our NSP and teacher training program, which gives locals an opportunity to gain experience teaching in a

TEFL classroom, building new skills and earning a competitive local salary. In Laos, teachers who work in government schools are expected to do 3-5 years of voluntary teaching before earning a salary, our NSP/teacher training program allows these individuals to earn a living while gaining valuable experience that can be used to seek future long term employment.





# UNSDG #5

## GENDER EQUALITY

GVI Laos started Women's Empowerment program in 2016 for Lao women and girls' access to education, choices and employment opportunities. Since 2016 GVI Laos women's Empowerment program usually has females from Secondary school and high school join our English classes. At the end of September two women came to GVI to see if they could join GVI English classes because they wanted to learn English. They came from the villages to the city to look for jobs. They tried to apply for jobs in different places like restaurants, hotels and guesthouses, but they could not get any jobs because most the places are looking for people who can speak English to work with. This is why these two women realised that English is very important for their future.

On October 8, 2019 GVI Laos started a new Women's Empowerment English class for them. It is unusual for GVI Laos to have women of this age join our English classes. They are the first older, female students who came to ask for English class. One of them cannot write or read in Lao language, but she picks English up very quickly. It is very nice to see how much they have learned in the last couple months. They will be inspiration for other women and we hope there will be more women of their ages who come to join our English classes.

- Written by: Ly Ly, GVI Laos Women's Empowerment Coordinator

\*Note- this class has since been discontinued as the women have found work in town!





# UNSDG #8

## DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



In Luangprabang, Laos the main industries outside of farming are tourism and hospitality, and for this reason many young students come to the city to gain access to economic opportunities. By providing free English classes to these students, particularly those who would otherwise be unable to afford it, GVI Laos helps to increase access to decent work and economic growth for many young Lao students. These students often come from rural villages where they do not have access to secondary or higher education and in order to study in the city they will need to find a way to pay

for dorms, food and uniforms. By partnering with the GVI Trust, GVI Laos helps to provide sponsorships for these students and by providing English education, GVI Laos helps these students increase their confidence communicating in English. Students who complete all three years of GVI's classes from beginner to pre-intermediate, will be able to communicate with a B1 (European standards) level of English. This is sufficient to gain employment in many local restaurants, cafes, guesthouses and hotels.



# GVI LAOS

## STAKEHOLDERS

2019 saw some major changes and updates from our local partners, most notably the end of a nearly 10 year partnership with Xayadeth College. As we saw the College was growing, and the Xayadeth family were able to sustain the college without GVI's assistance, and as GVI itself was growing in the community, it was decided that GVI would gradually pull out of the partnership. Over 3 years, GVI began by pulling out one year at a time. The college had three year groups, and each year GVI contributed to one less class. Finally in June/July 2019 the last of the Year 3s gave their final presentations and GVI officially said goodbye to Xayadeth College. It was certainly a bittersweet moment, on one hand ending such a long and fruitful partnership, and on the other seeing how much both partners had grown over the past 10 years.

In 2019 we had 125 participants from all over the world, from 16 different countries. We had volunteers of all ages from 14 to 74, which just goes to show there is no age limit to making a difference!

In 2019 we taught an average of over 20 classes per day at GVI Laos, reaching over 350 community members across 10 local partnerships.

