

# RESPONSIBLE VOLUNTEERING WITH RALEIGH INTERNATIONAL

## Why is responsible volunteering on sustainable development projects good?

Volunteering overseas on sustainable development projects is a powerful way to tackle poverty and inequality. It's also a crucial way to create human connections, share cultures and generate global citizenship. The work volunteers undertake is proven to have a lasting positive impact on both the communities where projects are taking place and on the volunteers themselves.

## When can volunteering do more harm than good?

- If well intentioned young people who want to volunteer don't understand what responsible volunteering looks like they may make the wrong choice. They can then find themselves in poorly managed projects, inadvertently doing more harm than good.
- If an organisation places more importance on profit, volunteers cannot be sure that the money they contribute is actually going towards projects.
- If the proper security, safeguarding and wellbeing processes are not in place then volunteers and the communities they are working with can find themselves at risk.

## RESPONSIBLE VOLUNTEERING IS...



About prioritising long-term impact, not profit.



Adding mutual value and opportunity to the communities where projects are taking place. They do not take employment from others.



Focused on factors such as collaboration, safety and sustainability.



Based on the needs, priorities and agreement of the communities where projects are taking place.

## HOW WE TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY



**We're a respected youth-driven charity with over 30 years' experience of working through young volunteers to deliver and inspire meaningful change.**

- Over 90% of volunteer fundraising supports our projects. These are based on long-term relationships in the countries where we operate, are designed to meet real needs in the communities we work with and contribute to the achievement of the UN's Global Goals for Sustainable Development.
- We work to recognised national and international standards and work in partnership with local governments, businesses and other charities to make sure our work is safe for all and achieves maximum impact.
- While bringing together volunteers from across the world and engaging face-to-face with each other has considerable value in the projects they do and the long-term personal impact. We encourage volunteers to consider their carbon footprint before, during and after their programme; to choose an environmentally friendly airline; and to fly direct; purchase a carbon offset.
- We are members of the International Forum for Volunteering in Development (Forum) and the Year Out Group (YOG).