Are you part of the problem, or part of the SOLUTION?
Our MISSION
It’s easy to **pay lip service to ethical practices**

It’s easy to think you are operating and conducting business ethically, **when you aren’t.**

At GVI, we don’t want to be guilty of that. We want to be better and try harder. We want to constantly develop our understanding of ethical best practice. In doing so, we hope to help establish a new standard for international development organisations.

Our mission is simple. **Make an ethical impact.**

But what do we mean by ethical impact’?
Ethical IMPACT
Imagine an under-resourced school in your local community. Every year at Christmas, a group of volunteers paint a themed mural for the children at the school.

It takes around two days, and the volunteers donate all the equipment, time, and resources needed. It’s a visible example of change, and incorporates a Christmas message of love, kindness, and charity. The pupils love it.

But does an under-resourced school really need the same wall repainted every year? Does that truly help the school, or does it only serve to make the volunteers feel good about themselves?

It might even be doing harm: if the community thinks the school is already getting the help it needs, they might not provide other, more urgent help.

This is the problem with most volunteering: it’s focused on what volunteers think is best, not based on a community’s actual needs.

This is not ethical impact.
What is ethical impact?

1. **Equal partnerships**
   Communities and local organisations know their own needs and contexts better than anyone. They need to be participants, not recipients.

2. **Do no harm**
   Volunteers have an ethical responsibility to the community, the environment, and to the project itself.

3. **Local ownership**
   Communities and local organisations have to be equal owners of any volunteer project.

4. **Sustainable outcomes**
   Ethical volunteering should aim to help communities become self-sustaining.
Our ETHICS
Our human empowerment principles

Collaboration

The setting and achieving of objectives must be done in a collaborative environment. Collaboration is between all stakeholders.

Equal partnerships

All stakeholders take on the role of both learner and teacher. All stakeholders have different and diverse skills and all have an equal part to play in the setting and meeting of objectives.
Support

All stakeholders should work to support one another in an environment that fosters independence and self-empowerment.

Sustainability

All collaboration should work towards a sustainable outcome in the long term.

Representation

All stakeholders must always be conscious and respectful of how they portray each other. This includes visual, written and verbal communications.
OUR ETHICS

Our 10 ethical commitments

We commit to:

- Locally-driven, collaborative projects
- Clear objectives and sustainable outcomes
- A principle of do no harm
- Working against dependency
- Creating responsible exit strategies
- Clear roles and specialised training
- Respect for all
- A focus on local ownership
- A stance against orphanage volunteering
- A robust child and vulnerable adult policy

DO GOOD, BETTER
Our IMPACT
Impact management & measurement

We aim to be data-driven in how we innovate and maximise our impact. We use a results-based monitoring and evaluation approach aligned to the UN SDGs to understand how our work affects the planet, people, and our participants.
Our partner organisations

All of our programs and projects are created and implemented in partnership with local community organisations or governments. All our activities align with partner objectives.
Impact & conservation

We are committed to:

- A science-first approach to all conservation efforts
- Improved monitoring of marine and terrestrial ecosystems and species
- Ethical species identification and animal handling
- Better waste management practice and reduced waste
- Contributing to global citizen science databases
Impact & community

We are committed to:

- Contributing to improved community livelihoods
- Contributing to improved community knowledge on sustainability
- Ongoing education around heritage, culture and history
- Respect for local knowledge and traditions
- Awareness of privilege and unbalanced power dynamics, including language privilege
OUR IMPACT

Further reading

Our latest ethics and impact report
View our report

Our stance on orphanage volunteering
View our stance

Our child and vulnerable adult policy
View our policy