# 2020 A YEAR IN REVIEW

#### **BUILDING BACK**

In January, a group travelers from the UK helped locals to rebuild their homes in Laos. They were enjoying a cruise up the Mekong River when they encountered a family who had just lost their house to a fire. Thanks to their generous contributions and a selfless team effort, we were able to assist in getting the family back on their feet with a brand new home.





#### **SOLIDARITY FUND**

Launched to support people who have lost their jobs or have been severely affected by the current Covid 19 crisis, to date it helped 125 households with a total budget of \$25,000. Among the beneficiaries, we helped single parents, people caring for their elders or for people with disabilities.. Vannapha Thonephasong used it to purchase medicine and rice for her family and Thu Ha Vu used it to buy a sewing machine to start her small tailoring business.

## KY ANH COMMUNITY

Working with Evergreen labs and Ky Anh community, we have enabled the development of this very innovative community based tourism project in Vietnam. When travel will be back, you'll be able to this village with the support of a self-guided app! It was developed to tell the history and culture of this resilient village in a 1.5 hour tour on the Izi.travel app. Listen to the village's stories being told by directly by villagers. Taking this tour includes a donation to the village's fund that is entirely used to help its development.





#### **REFORM CENTER**

In Hoi An Vietnam, we have partnered with various stakeholders to build a Reform center worth \$40,000. It yields around 2 tonnes of discarded plastic per day to create furniture sold to restaurants and hotels. This project is twofold and giving back to informal waste collectors working in the streets, they get additional income through working with Reform. It is recognized as an innovative project by <u>UNWTO - read more here</u>.

#### **SAFE WATER**

Thanks to the generous \$15,000 donation of a couple who travelled with EXO TRAVEL, the Ah Lett Chaung clinic that we support since 2011, now has a new water purification system and enables villagers to access safe drinking water at no cost for them. We supply 1,500 gallons of water per day. Special thanks to Zayar Min, Yin Mar, Zaw and the team involved.





#### ONE FOR ONE

In partnership with Passa Paa a social enterprise, we have purchased reusable face masks for staff in EXO Travel Laos and donated others (one for one) to local students, mostly Hmong and Khmu. Passa Paa is an organization supporting women and promoting traditional crafts from Laos with a modern twist!

#### PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Alexandra Michat, our manager has been invited as guest speaker to several webinars :

- How Covid19 has compromised our sustainability agenda and what are the opportunities for the future? - by Further East
- Sustainable Tourism Post-Covid by EXO Travel
- How can a tour operator influence its supply chain to become more sustainable? - by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council
- Business Responsible Business in Child Rights Protection - by UNICEF Vietnam

and cooperated with PATA & UNWTO to share best practices in tool kits made available for Tour Operators.





### COLLABORATION

In 2020, we have joined several networks including Tourism Declares Climate Emergency and we are actively participating in the Tour Operators working group. We have also signed the Future of Tourism Coalition and WTTC Sustainability Taskforce. We have also been supporting tour operators to enhance their sustainable tourism policies.

#### NEW EXO FOUNDATION WEBSITE

We are refreshed and updated our website! The culmination of months of work behind the scenes, the website is a platform for showcasing responsible travel initiatives and the amazing projects we are backing. During this time, it has never been more important to support the most vulnerables ones and to protect our planet, so we are proud to drive awareness to them.

DATION



www.exofoundation.org

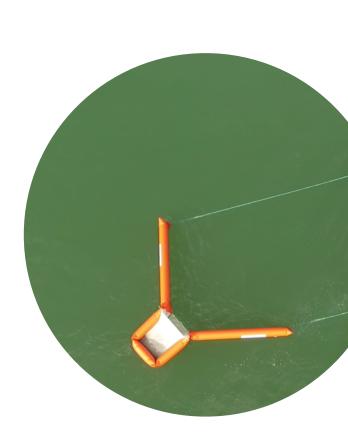


## SHARE THE WONDER

This initiative is built on the belief that every child should have the opportunity to experience the eye-opening and inspiring wonders of travel. Our mission is to share these amazing benefits with underprivileged young people and help transform their lives. We work together with local NGO's, social enterprises and responsible travel organisations in Southeast Asia to create fun and educational day trips. Our experiences not only benefit children, but also have a positive impact on the communities and natural environment that our partners support. You can sponsor a child's day trip for \$25!

#### **BALI WATERS**

We received our river trawl to clean up Bali rivers from plastic debris and waste! Purchased in 2019, we are starting to use it in partnership with local organizations involved in waste management. This trawl will enable to facilitate clean up operations and to monitor waste polluting Bali's rivers. When travel will be back, we will work with hotels and local partners to continue raising awareness on this sensitive topic and take action with this innovative low tech solution.





Despite the crisis,
\$82,000
were collected
and used to support
our projects in 2020.

THANK YOU TO ALL
OUR DONORS & PARTNERS