

# CHOOSING A

# VOLUNTEERING AGENCY

WE KNOW THERE IS A LOT OF DIFFERENT WAYS TO VOLUNTEER AND A LOT OF THINGS TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION. WE'VE CREATED A CHECKLIST TO HELP YOU PLAN FOR YOUR VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE, AND TO HELP MAKE THE DECISION OF WHO TO VOLUNTEER WITH AND HOW.

REMEMBER, THE CHEAPEST IS NOT ALWAYS THE BEST...

## IS THE ORGANISATION TRUSTWORTHY, TRANSPARENT & REPUTABLE?

Don't go with an organisation you don't know or can't learn about from their website. Before you choose an organisation consider:



- ✓ Is the organisation ACFID accredited or a member of a peak body?
- ✓ Is the organisation a registered charity?
- ✓ Can you access their financial reports?
- ✓ Can you learn about their mission and values on their website?

## ARE COMMUNITIES INVOLVED IN PROJECT DESIGN? HOW ARE YOU LOOKED AFTER?

Find out as much about how the organisation delivers their projects, involves communities in decision making and the support they provide you. Don't be afraid to ask these questions:



- ✓ What are the program outcomes?
- ✓ Who are the local partner organisations and how long have they worked with them?
- ✓ Will there be an interview, pre-departure training and in-country orientation?
- ✓ Will there be 24/7 support?
- ✓ What insurance/s do they provide?

## HOW DO PROJECTS SUPPORT COMMUNITIES? HOW DO FEES SUPPORT THIS WORK?

It's important to understand your motivation for wanting to volunteer but you also need to ask yourself and the organisation:



- ✓ How do my skills match the program requirements?
- ✓ Will my work be building the capacity of others?
- ✓ How is the project work responding to the goals of the community?
- ✓ What are the breakdown of the costs, how do fees support in-country project activities and partners?

## WHAT WORKING WITH CHILDREN SAFEGUARDS ARE IN PLACE?

Every volunteer agency needs to have safeguards and structures in place to work in the best interests of children. It is vital you ask these questions:



- ✓ Do they have a child protection policy?
- ✓ Do they have a child protection check as part of the volunteer recruitment process?
- ✓ Do they do child protection checks for staff?
- ✓ Do they always work in the best interest of the child?