

Our Mission

Mittaphap Education (meaning "Friendship" in English) is the parent organization under which Saelao operates. The project is a registered non-profit association. All resources are exclusively dedicated to sustainable development in Vang Vieng district.

At the association, Every kid can learn for free and has the same opportunity to develop their skill. our key ethical commitment is equality.

By volunteering with us, you help Lao kids and young adults escape 2 major social issues in Laos: prostitution and drugs. On raising the education level of girls from poor villages, you give them a better position on the job market and they will work outside of the powerful prostitution networks.

And you will help also a lot of boys escape public health issue #1 in Laos: Yaba, a deadly hard drug with no treatment, that they take to endure the conviction that they have no way out of poverty.

Your Mission



You will take part in our core missions: teaching english to Lao kids and young adults. we will provide you the materials and a training. Depending on your interests or skills, you'll also contribute to maintain and build facilities on our sites, help in the garden and ricefields, and develop our online promotion and social media. Taking part in this project also means to align our Code of ethics:

- ✓ Respect of each individual life and reject any kind of discrimination
- ✓ Full commitment to physical and psychological safety of the children
- ✓ Respect and protect our country: local culture, laws, policies and authorities
- ✓ Respect the environment and help raise awareness for environmental issues.



Your life with us

You will be accommodated in a dormitory on the site or, if you wish for more privacy, you can rent a room in one of our nearby partner guesthouses at a low price. Our association is dedicated to development, therefore we expect from you to contribute to our activities, in accordance with your talents and/or interests. Your ideas are always welcome and you'll have the freedom to realize your own projects. No specific competence is required, but **you should be able to communicate in English** since we are an international and multicultural Community.



Teaching English

In the late afternoon, **you'll teach English to Lao kids and young adults**. We'll provide you the teaching material and a training. **This activity is the core of our sustainable development mission**. Thus, students with good knowledge of English are trained by us to help you teach their younger brothers and sisters. Some of them receive particular classes from the volunteers on the morning.

Maintaining the facilities / Building the association

The **mornings are dedicated to project work**. Depending on your interests or skills, you'll contribute to maintain and build facilities on our sites, help in the garden, decorate the premises, design and implement outdoor and online promotion concepts and develop the sustainability of the site. **You are highly welcome to bring your own ideas** to implement new environment-friendly technologies.



Community life

You'll be part of a **friendly community of people from all over the world**. Our Lao friends will teach you basic Lao, help you cook fantastic meals and share their sense of humor with you.

You'll also have the opportunity to enjoy the **Vang Vieng district natural wealth** on your free time, such as amazing viewpoints, watercaves, blue lagoons...

Our code of ethics

Each member of the Project abides by following Fundamental Ethical Commitments:

Commitment#1 The respect of each individual Life

Each member of Association is a respected individual and, in turn, rejects any kind of discrimination, especially based on gender, nationality, sociological ethnicity, religious beliefs, political beliefs, physical and mental illness, age, health condition, sexual orientation, and economic situation. Additionally, respecting each individual demands full commitment to the physical and psychological safety of adults and children alike, and to the protection of their development.

Commitment#2 The respect of the Lao PDR country

Each member of Association respects the authorities, policies, laws and regulations of the Lao PDR, respects and protects the local culture, and rejects any kind of political, ideological, religious and cultural proselytism.

Commitment#3 The respect of our mission statements

All resources of the association are exclusively reserved for sustainable development in Vang Vieng District through activities, programs, expenses and investments beneficial in the short and long term to the community and not just to one or a few individuals. Specific programs (Internship Program, Scholarship Program...), which are immediately beneficial to a limited number of individuals with outstanding skills, rely on fair and objective selection processes and support, in the long term, the sustainable development of the community through the impact these beneficiaries have or will have on the community.

Commitment#4 The respect of the environment

Each member of Association protects the environment by using natural resources carefully, by striving for the lowest possible level of pollution and of non-recyclable wastes, and by actively raising awareness for environmental issues.

Commitment#5 The respect of our contributors

Association rejects any kind of bribery, operating a transparent and accurate accounting system. the project endeavours to identify and resolve all potential conflicts of interest. Association implements and protects an organisational structure which separates higher decision-making and oversight from the financial resources. The project maintains a standard of reporting that is regular, bidirectional and public.

Financial organization

The project is a registered **non-profit** association. All resources are exclusively dedicated to sustainable development in Vang Vieng district.

1

A free education warranty

In order to guaranty equal access to education, we do not ask the local families to pay us for teaching English to their kids, otherwise the access to our activities would be possible only for the richest families: we would fail to fulfill our key ethical commitment to equality and we would sustain a system where education level and job opportunities would be determined by the wealth of the families. **At association, every kid can learn for free and has the same opportunity to develop their skills.**

2

A small volunteer's contribution...

Project volunteers contribute with their work to the development efforts of the association. However, this very valuable work (teaching, construction / renovation, gardening...) does not generate revenues for the association. We want to keep education free, the very valuable work of our volunteers does not generate revenues and we do not benefit from large grants from international organization, but we want to help Laos in its development. So, the only way to do it is asking our volunteers for **a small financial contribution to cover the food, functioning and projects costs.**

In all cases, this small daily contribution is less than what a low-budget tourist would pay in Vang Vieng for 3 meals a day and accommodation.

3

For a big impact on Vang Vieng district population

By volunteering with us, you help Lao kids and young adults escape 2 major social issues in Laos: prostitution and Drugs.

On raising the education level of girls from poor villages, you give them a better position on the job market and They will work outside of the powerful prostitution networks which supply Vang Vieng, the capital city of Vientiane and whole Thailand. And you will help also a lot of boys escape public health issue #1 in Laos: Yaba, a deadly hard drug with no treatment, that they take to endure the conviction that they have no way out of poverty, meanwhile their young brains discover day after day on TV how healthy and wealthy people can live in other countries.

By volunteering with us you save lives. This is no exaggeration and this is something you can be proud of, All your life. Even if you stay with us only 2 weeks, you help a lot to improve the future of our students.

Your contribution

Your financial support to the association depends on the length of your stay. There are 3 cases:

- “**short-term**” **volunteers**: they stay between 2 weeks and 2 months
- “**interns**”: are volunteers who stay between 2 and 6 months
- “**Coordinators**” who stay over 6 months.

In addition to covering daily costs, any volunteer makes a one-time donation to support our Scholarship program. This program helps promising students Access University. The Program includes assistance during application to universities and financial support for food, accommodation, registration fees and education material during the studies. **We currently support 11 former project students coming from economically poor families who could not afford higher education without our help.**

Our accounting is very accurate and absolutely transparent. Volunteers can ask us anytime for any financial data or for any explanation of costs, expenses, investment or strategy.

The following tables detail the participation fees for each volunteering situation. Please do not hesitate to ask if you still have questions about the participation fees.

Short-term volunteers And Interns

Under 3 months

Option 1 : Food and Accommodation in on-site dormitory, per person

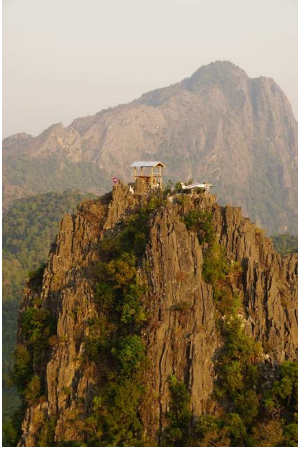
Time	Description	Fees per person	Total per person
First 2 weeks	One-time donation for education	\$29	\$182
	Participation to food and general costs (14 days)	\$182	
Additional day	Participation to food and general costs (per day)	\$13	\$13

Option 2 : Food on project site and Accommodation in guesthouse, 1 person in the room

Payment to Association	Identical to option 1
+ Payment to the guesthouse	+ \$5 per night

For Coordinators take over a specific coordination role depending on their talents and interests: coordination of the association, coordination of an Project site, coordination of the Project volunteers, coordination of the Education Programs, coordination of the Environmental Programs and on-site Projects,...and strongly contribute to the functioning, stability, continuity and identity of the association. Please contact our admins for more details.

A Day With Us



- 8 - 9 am : Morning tasks**
- 9 am : Breakfast**
- 9 - 11 am: Gardening, rice field, Maintenance, Manual works...**

- 12 pm : Lunch**
- 1 - 3 pm : Free time**
- 3 - 4 pm : Class preparation**

- 5 - 7 pm : English class**
- 8 pm : Dinner**



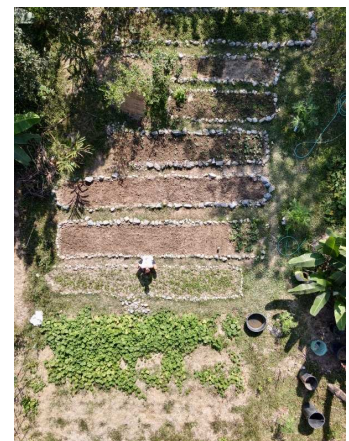
You're highly welcome to bring your own ideas. to implement new projects that help the development of the project!

In your free time, you'll have the opportunity to enjoy the VangVieng District natural wealth, such as amazing viewpoints, watercaves, bluelagoons,...

At our project, we strive to plant our own rice. Every grain you eat as a volunteer or as a guest in our restaurant, was grown in nearby fields.

Rice seeds are planted from May to August after we form mud walls for the paddies and till the wet soil. The rice is pulled and replanted a second time during rainy season, before it is fully grown and can be harvested in November and December.

If you volunteer during rice planting or harvesting season, you will get to join local farmers in the field practicing this traditional method of growing the most essential food to Laos culture.



Before joining Association



Things to bring with you

Natural soap: we respect the environment and our sustainability is dependent on the quality of our water. There are no water treatment stations in the surrounding villages. So, to reiterate, you can bring your own products or purchase natural soaps (liquid & solid) made by local women (our Soap Project) on site. But don't worry: our bottled drinking water is sourced separately.

As for the environment, and in order to reduce our waste, we suggest you to bring your own sport/travel water bottle. You'll be able to fill it with clean fresh water. You can also use washable and re-usable cotton items to dry your body or to remove make-up, tampons with cardboard applicator or without applicator, or menstrual cups, and only natural washing agents on Project sites (natural soap, natural shampoo...). You can also buy it in the site made by local women.

We also respect the local culture and traditions. **When teaching at schools or in temples, we ask our male volunteers to wear trousers and our female volunteers to wear a skirt or a dress covering their knees. In addition, your shoulders should be covered and, if you have long hair, it should be tied.** Please make sure that you bring appropriate clothes. You can also purchase suitable attire at relatively low price from the nearby market. Project volunteers do not use bikinis, since Lao people do not approve of them.

You should bring a torch light, flip-flops, a towel and a (very) basic first-aid kit. You may also need mosquito spray, sun blocker, a hat or cap and a lightweight rain jacket. We provide everything you need to sleep, including mosquito nets, but you are free to sleep in your own bag if you prefer.

We accept cards payment only on the day of arrival. we have the equipment to chagre bank or credit cards. Please remind of bank fee 3%



Things to Things not to bring with

We do not tolerate any illegal substances, especially drugs, on our sites. The violation of this key rule leads to notification of the authorities. Project volunteers are considered as teachers by the local population. Teachers are highly respected in Laos and inappropriate behavior can have devastating consequences on our young Lao students. Additionally, it exposes the whole association to closure and our staff to unemployment.

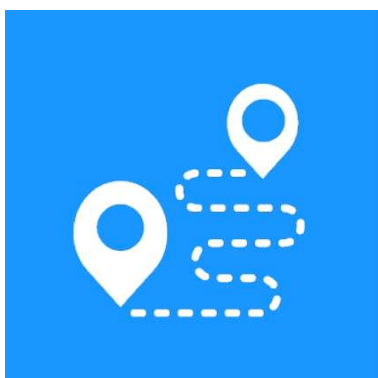


Confirmation of volunteering

To avoid any misunderstanding, please:

- Make sure that the Coordination Team has sent to you a confirmation email outlining your volunteering dates,
- Send another confirmation of your arrival 3-4 days before you join us (some travelers may change their plans and we wish to be informed for Logistic reasons).

How to find us?



Confirmation of volunteering

From Vientiane. There are a lot of minibuses leaving Vientiane to Vang Vieng at all times of day. There are a new express road and railway so now it takes only about an hour to get to Vang Vieng from Vientiane instead of the 4/5 hours previously and the price is around 110.000 Kip (7 USD). To take a minibus, you can either buy a ticket at one of the many travel agencies in the capital (especially in “Mixay”) or take a tuk-tuk to the Northern Bus Station.

From Luang Prabang

There are many minibuses leaving Luang Prabang to Vang Vieng throughout the day. The price is approximately 100.000 Kip (12 USD) and the trip is 6 hours. To take a minibus, you can either buy a ticket in the city center (at a travel agency) or take a tuk-tuk to the Southern Bus Station.



How to come to us from Vang Vieng?

Normal meeting point, day and time

We usually welcome our new volunteers on Sundays (“Orientation Day”). The meeting point and time is: Sengkeo’s guesthouse, 9 am. We will pick you up there.

Alternative meetings

Occasionally, our new volunteers get lost, miss their bus or dream up other dramatic reasons not to be at the meeting point on time. In this case, please contact us:

+ 856 20 523 237 65 (also for WhatsApp).

We may then send a ‘desperate volunteer’ rescue team or you’ll have to take a tuk-tuk.



JOIN US!

