

High  
School  
Specials

# Impact Report 2017

# > In this report

Introduction..... 3

Our Social Impact..... 4

Care & Community..... 4

Medicine & Healthcare..... 8

Building..... 12

Law & Human Rights..... 14

Archaeology..... 15

Our Environmental Impact..... 16

# > Introduction

Whether it is building a new home for a family in the Philippines, installing a greywater system for underprivileged communities in South Africa during a drought, gathering vital data for ongoing wildlife studies, or helping plant over 8,000 mangroves to protect coastlines and nearby communities, every Projects Abroad volunteer makes an important contribution to improving the lives of others, protecting ecosystems and making the world a better place.

Many of our volunteers make a contribution which defies their age. Our High School Special programmes in particular tap into the energy and optimism of young, enthusiastic teenagers who want to make a difference in the world. High School Specials are short-term volunteer trips designed for students aged 15-18, and bring together young people from over 60 countries around the world. Through their combined efforts, these volunteers contribute towards long-term goals and long-lasting positive impact on the communities we work with. Our varied programmes mean there is something for everyone to get involved in according to their interests and abilities, with the aim to contribute towards sustainable change where it is needed most.

This report highlights some of the key accomplishments of over 1,700 young people who took part in our High School Special projects in 2017. These results show the tremendous difference that can be accomplished - by volunteers of all ages and backgrounds - when we work together.

None of these achievements would have been possible without our inspirational staff and partners on the ground who worked tirelessly throughout these busy months to not only support the communities we work in, but also these groups of young volunteers, many of whom were venturing overseas for the very first time. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to these exciting developments, and we look forward to delivering more next year as a new cohort of active global citizens join to help, learn and explore!

JENNY PUYO  
*Head of Programme Development*







## Our Social Impact

### Care & Community

High School Special volunteers are a welcome pair of helping hands at holiday schools, summer camps, schools, and day-care centres in developing countries. They help stimulate the children with fun educational activities, with the aim of supporting the children's overall development. This directly contributes towards long-term goals from our Care and Teaching Management Plans.

871 Care High School Special volunteers

More than 3,500 children benefitted from Care activities



High School Special volunteers paint a mural for children at their project placement.

### Improve the Learning Environment:

#### • Volunteers painted:

- o 14 classrooms in Argentina, Cambodia, Belize, Myanmar, and Senegal, benefitting over 440 students.
- o 4 school buildings and community centres in Fiji, Sri Lanka, Argentina, Jamaica, Morocco, and Vietnam. Over 350 students benefitted.
- o 25 educational murals in Fiji, Cambodia, Myanmar, Peru, and South Africa. The murals illustrated themes like marine animals, the alphabet, numbers, colours, days of the week, seasons, and emotions. These can be used by teachers for lessons in the future.
- o 1 library in Cambodia.
- o 1 playroom, 1 multi-sensory room and 1 physiotherapy room in a children's care centre in Ethiopia.

#### • Volunteers:

- o Built 6 school benches in Peru.
- o Renovated 3 playgrounds in Argentina and Jamaica.
- o Designed and built a multi-sensory garden for a placement in Sri Lanka. More than 50 students will be able to take part in educational games linked with physical and sensory activities. The work involved: painting walls, building "bumble bees" from tyres and laying down gardening tracks. Teachers will use this garden during storytelling time, as well as to teach children to count (numbers painted on walls) and various motor skills e.g. jumping, following tracks, running.
- o Installed a carpet in a classroom to celebrate Mandela Day in South Africa. The new carpet insulates the cold cement floor and creates a more comfortable learning environment.



A High School Special volunteer in Cambodia assists children with planting a garden.



Children dance with a volunteer, as part of an activity.

### Raise Awareness of Healthy Living and the Environment:

- Volunteers created 7 vegetable gardens for care and special needs centres in Vietnam, Cambodia, Peru, and Tanzania. These gardens benefit more than 300 people from disadvantaged backgrounds or with disabilities. Residents at these centres learn new skills as they help maintain the garden and the produce grown is used to cook for the residents, enabling the centres to become more self-sufficient while promoting healthier eating habits.
- In Togo, volunteers taught children how to transform waste into fertiliser to help grow their own vegetable garden.
- Volunteers built 2 recycled gardens in Jamaica and Vietnam to help improve the learning environment at a school and foster home, while encouraging recycling.
- Volunteers in Jamaica assisted at a sports programme for 60 children in a disadvantaged community. The programme offered a healthy outlet for the children's energy and enthusiasm, while introducing them to a new sport and improving their teamwork skills.
- Volunteers in Ghana ran a football training camp for nearly 200 children, teaching them various skills in the lead-up to a tournament.
- Children in Fiji participated in environmental awareness talks given by volunteers. Through the talks, children learned how to identify different types of rubbish around the community, to teach them which types of rubbish can be recycled.



### Improve English:

- Volunteers taught different afternoon English lessons for 24 women and 60 children in Sri Lanka, with a focus on conversational English or the English level required by the school curriculum.
- Volunteers focused on expanding children's English vocabulary in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Ethiopia, and Morocco through interactive games and activities.



Children in Myanmar play an English game on the playground.



In Mongolia, a High School Special volunteer plays a numeracy game with young children at her placement.

### Increase Literacy / Numeracy:

- Volunteers created flashcards to encourage reading, writing and learning new vocabulary.
- Volunteers helped teach remedial classes to improve children's numeracy levels.
- Story-telling and reading classes with children helped promote literacy.



A young boy practices writing numbers in Tanzania.

- At a summer camp in Jamaica, volunteers worked with a group that included 3 children who had never previously attended school regularly and were behind for their age. With the help of the volunteers, these 3 children were able to learn basics such as the alphabet, how to identify letters, and count to five on their own. This happened after just 2 weeks at the summer camp; they showed encouraging progress.

### Feeding programmes for 535 beneficiaries

- High School Special volunteers in Jamaica took part in the distribution of food and care packages to 25 elderly people in remote areas. Many of these elderly people are from low income families or are neglected. One woman, for example, did not have anything in her house to eat that day, and would have had to walk 3.2 km to get a meal from her friend.
- In Senegal, volunteers helped provide meals for more than 150 children at the Talibé centre for street children run by Projects Abroad.
- In Argentina, High School Special volunteers cooked meals on 2 separate occasions. These meals helped feed 300 homeless people.
- Volunteers in Jamaica provided lunch every day for the 60 children who attended the summer camp.



A group of volunteers prepare meals for homeless people in Argentina.

### QUOTES FROM TEACHERS:

#### Sri Lanka

"The volunteers that have worked with us have done great work with our children. The preschool garden they have built has benefitted our children. Thank you so much for all your hard effort to make our preschool wonderful."

– Kelani Nadee Preschool Teacher



"They always try make positive change[s] among the placement every day."

– Thakagishi Preschool Teacher



"We are so happy about the activities volunteers carry out with our school children. They are very creative and neat with their hand work."

– Kumudu Preschool Teacher



#### Jamaica

The principal at Anna Miller Basic School was very thankful for the volunteers who came at a time when she needed help the most, as one of the teachers had just resigned and another was on leave. The volunteers used their initiative and brought a different set of activities that educated, as well as entertained the children. She will be adapting a few of the activities that the volunteers created that the children enjoyed and learned from.

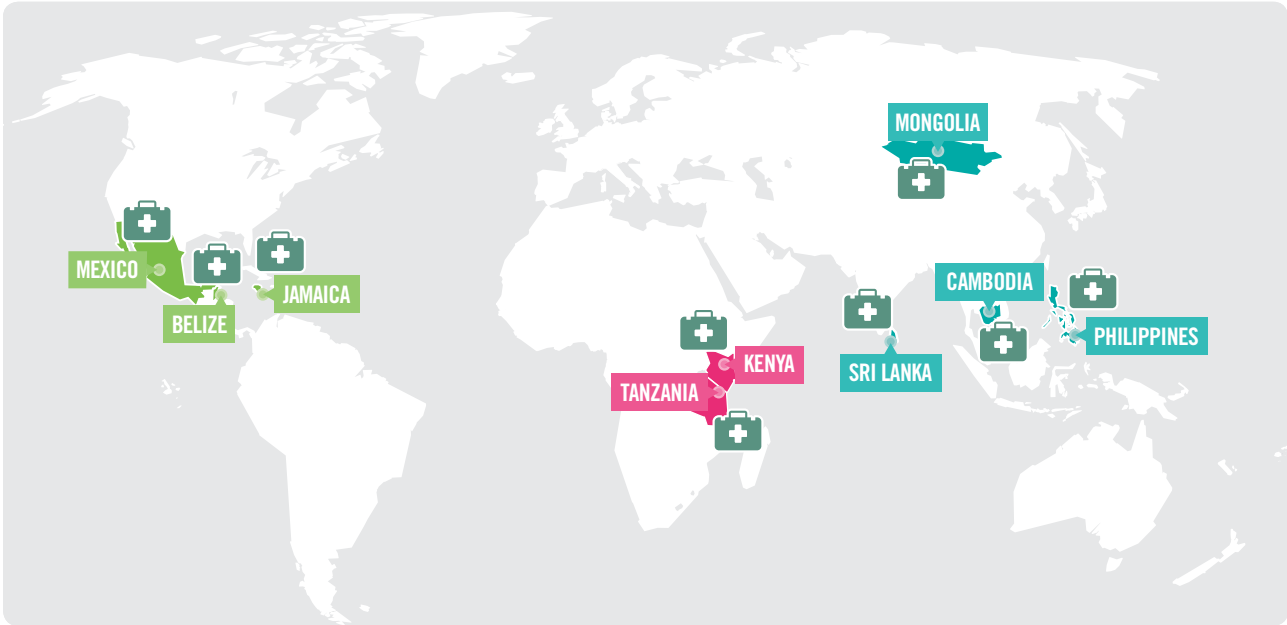
One parent from the Greenvale Community said that it's great what Projects Abroad are doing for the community, as many of the children would be on the road, walking around with nothing to do. She is grateful that her children took part in the camp, and that she doesn't have to find things for them to do at home. The lunch provided at the camp for the students helped relieve strain on herself and the other parents. She hopes to see us next year.





High School Special volunteers in Sri Lanka check children's blood pressure levels, during a medical outreach.

Improve Access to Basic Healthcare for Disadvantaged Groups:



MEDICAL OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS:

Country	Medical Camps/Outreaches	Beneficiaries
Sri Lanka	14	2,050
Belize	6	182
Jamaica	13	452
Kenya	6	714
Mongolia	6	180
Mexico	6	210
Cambodia	30 days of outreaches	500 beneficiaries in communities, schools and kindergartens. 1 woman with severe bronchitis was accompanied to the hospital for treatment.
Philippines	House-to-house visits and screenings	72
Tanzania	5	258



Medical High School Special volunteers working at their placement in Kenya.



Volunteers talk with a mother and child during an outreach.

High School  
Special  
volunteers  
completed over  
100 medical  
outreaches,  
reaching more  
than 5,550  
people

Medicine & Healthcare

Volunteers on our Medicine and Public Health programmes worked towards one of our important medical programme goals: to improve access to basic healthcare for disadvantaged groups.

The High School Special volunteers completed over 100 medical outreaches, which reached more than 5,550 people. Our medical outreaches take the form of home visits or community outreaches and aim to assist vulnerable communities, like low-income earners, the elderly, and the homeless. The outreaches enable them to get access to basic healthcare advice and services. These outreaches are organised with, or upon the request of, government or community leaders.

OUR VOLUNTEERS:

- Participated in 14 medical camps in Sri Lanka. These outreaches were requested by government leaders and reached up to 2,050 beneficiaries. It was found that:
  - o Of the 1,716 people whose blood pressure was tested, 27.5% had blood pressure levels above the normal range.
  - o When blood sugar levels were tested, 31.6% of the people in attendance had blood glucose levels above the normal range. These patients were advised by professional medical staff in attendance, and in some cases offered medication.
  - o Some visitors were given referrals for further treatment, notably those who showed symptoms of dengue fever.
- Assisted 714 low-income earners in Kenya with receiving free medical care.
- Helped provide 142 patients with free eye checks in the Philippines. 120 people were provided with new reading glasses.
- Assisted with community health outreaches and surveys for infants in Bolivia. Volunteers also assisted with the tetanus vaccine for young people aged 15-30 years old, and the H1N1 flu vaccine for older adults.





A young boy practises brushing his teeth in Myanmar.



Children learn how to wash their hands.

### Improve Hygiene Standards:

- Nearly 600 children and parents participated in personal, dental, and food hygiene talks and workshops in the Philippines, Myanmar, Vietnam, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Morocco, and Jamaica.
  - In Jamaica, 85% of the students tested did not know the most effective way to brush their teeth. Workshops were aimed at educating children on the best hygiene practices, as part of our prevention work.
  - We donated toothbrushes and toothpaste to nearly 100 children in Myanmar, Ethiopia, and South Africa.
- High School Special volunteers joined a local school health campaign in Peru, checking food hygiene conditions in schools. The goal of the campaign was to emphasise food safety and reduce the incidence of food poisoning.

### Promote Awareness of Non-communicable Diseases:

- In Bolivia, the Philippines, Argentina, and Belize, volunteers supported initiatives to prevent and treat non-communicable diseases like diabetes and high blood pressure.
- In Belize,
  - Volunteers led 8 talks on the importance of good nutrition
  - 9 outreaches focused on examining blood glucose. Of the 175 people whose blood glucose levels were tested, 19 people had levels above the norm and 3 below.
  - 8 outreaches on blood pressure levels. Of the 182 people whose blood pressure was tested, 36 people had blood pressure levels above the normal range and 5 below.
    - People with vitals above the normal range were advised about treatment options and lifestyle changes.
    - Those with more dangerous levels were referred to the nearest clinic for follow up care. More than 20 referrals were given.
- In Argentina, volunteers assisted with nutrition workshops and a diabetes and hypertension campaign.
  - 13 outreaches to a local retirement home and health dispensaries were conducted, to educate people on these diseases and risk factors.



A Public Health volunteer measures a patient's blood pressure.



A local doctor explains the medical outreach process to volunteers in Tanzania, before they assist locals.

### Other health topics covered included:

- Volunteers organised a health fair in Belize, to which representatives from local organisations (including the Ministry of Health) were invited. The health fair covered a number of topics including prevention of mosquito-borne diseases, HIV, dental hygiene, and non-communicable diseases. In total, 67 community members were tested as part of the regional HIV Testing Day. The tests were conducted in partnership with a local organisation, and 1 person with positive test results was referred for further counselling.
- Volunteers in Jamaica collaborated with the Ministry of Health in the face of a recent spread of conjunctivitis. This involved distributing 80 flyers about how to prevent, treat and cure conjunctivitis in 3 communities.
- After training with a medical coordinator, volunteers gave first aid training in Sri Lanka and Tanzania to supervisors, families and children at schools, nurseries and children's homes. They taught basic skills needed in case of an emergency.
- Volunteers conducted door-to-door nutrition assessments and awareness talks in Kenya, as well as door-to-door deworming and awareness campaigns.



High School Special volunteers in Belize run an awareness campaign on obesity.

600 children and parents participated in personal, dental and food hygiene talks and workshops





Senegal High School Special volunteers work at their Building placement alongside local artisans.

## Building

- In Senegal, volunteers finished the construction and renovation of two rooms at a daara (a school and home for street children). They added doors and windows and painted them, to help provide shelter for 14 children. One of the elders from the area said: "We have never seen people do such a great achievement in such a short period of time without making any 'noise'. All we had in the past was promises and promises, again and again, but your organisation did something concrete without any talk".

- 797 Jamaican students benefitted from High School Special volunteers assisting with the construction and renovation of a playground at their primary school. Having a playground is now a requirement from the government's Early Childhood Commission, but not all schools have been able to afford to install 1. Thanks to the help of the volunteers, the playground will improve the school's learning environment and encourage children to learn through play.
- Volunteers in Nepal finished the foundations for 7 new classrooms.



Volunteers coat a playhouse structure with wood primer.



The completed house built by High School Special volunteers in Myanmar.

### VOLUNTEER STORY:

"I would say the 2 most memorable events were working at Where Rainbows Meet to cook food for more than 200 people and renovating a local school. It felt amazing to be able to give back to the local community by providing them with a meal. It was nice to know that, at least for today, they were able to get 1 meal, and to see their smiles was truly the best. In addition, being able to renovate a school by painting the walls was really fun, as we were able to transform it into a livelier environment for the children to learn in."

– JENNY GUO, Care & Community in South Africa High School Special



- In the Philippines, volunteers built a home with a toilet for a disadvantaged family. Four years after typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines, there are still people with damaged homes only covered with tarpaulins.
  - o Projects Abroad has been renovating classrooms, rebuilding homes, and providing toilets to those most in need after being affected by the typhoon. In July, High School Special volunteers helped repair 1 typhoon survivor's home. Linda is a widow who lives with her grandchild and cuts grass for a living. After typhoon Haiyan, Linda was able to cover the frames of her small house with tarpaulin, so that water could not come in. It also helped protect her family from the sun. They haven't had a toilet since the typhoon. The volunteers helped to install new walls and a new layout for the kitchen, build proper floor foundations, install proper frames for the house and windows, and build a toilet. After just 3 weeks, Linda received the keys to her new home, which included new kitchen utensils and other homeware. Linda and her grandchild will benefit from the home, while the toilet will also benefit another 6 community members.
- In Myanmar, High School Special volunteers built a stilt house for a family of five. The house previously provided by the local government was old and seemed to be unstable.

### Community work included:

- High School Special volunteers took part in constructing a sandpit shed, fencing a play area, and constructing a footpath in Fiji. The latter will allow villagers to avoid walking through mud during the rainy season, and they will complete the footpath themselves.
  - o Volunteers built and decorated bus shelters to protect community members from extreme weather and they decorated a church building.
- Volunteers renovated a home in a South African township. They removed rubbish, painted the inside of the home, and replaced the door.

- In Togo, our High School Special volunteers painted 2 bedrooms for 45 children in a children's home, after the director of the home had been looking for resources to do this for over a year.



Volunteers in South Africa on the High School Special relax after renovating a house.





A High School Special volunteer gives a talk on gender-related issues in Ghana.

## Law & Human Rights

- In Ghana, High School Special volunteers conducted awareness discussions and campaigns upon the request of leaders in 4 communities and schools on gender-related issues, child trafficking, and child marriage, focusing on peers of similar age. Volunteers also distributed 100 leaflets on children's rights.
- In Argentina, volunteers held awareness campaigns in care centres for 39 children and teenagers, with a focus on youth development. This was in line with the international convention on children's rights and local legislation tackling human rights topics such as gender equality.
  - o Volunteers also assisted a local NGO with activities for the homeless population. These activities included artistic workshops around music, painting and theatre. Volunteers introduced games and ideas at these workshops, linking them with human rights such as the right to identity and the right to health.
- In South Africa, volunteers:
  - o High School Special Law & Human Rights volunteers in South Africa conducted 90 surveys on access to housing, water, and sanitation in an informal settlement in the city of Cape Town. This was following fires that destroyed homes in the community and recent protests by local people because of the state of temporary housing arrangements and lack of service delivery. Once the survey information is compiled and analysed, it will be shared with community leaders and the City of Cape Town, to help them consider the needs of the community. Information was also collected on the different types of legal services required in the area, so the Projects Abroad Human Rights Office can set up mobile legal clinics there in the future.
  - o 70 children and staff at a centre for underprivileged children were catered for at a food programme. Activities focused on recycling and the water cycle were organised by the volunteers for the children.
  - o Two rainwater tanks with 3,000 litres worth of rainwater collection capacity combined, were installed. This feeds directly into a local day-care centre's food garden via taps and hoses that volunteers also installed. The system was an important initiative, as Cape Town faced a drought in 2017.

## Archaeology

- High School Special volunteers in Romania supported university students at the excavation site, Lumea Noua, a neolithic-copper age settlement discovered in 1942. The lack of university students studying or joining in the dig means that research work has been delayed. Volunteers are a welcome addition to the team; they assist with various stages of the excavation from digging, to cleaning and labelling artefacts found, to researching ceramics.
- In Peru, High School Special volunteers assisted in working on 4 different archaeological sites in the Cusco region. The team and volunteers completed the excavation units in Tantaestancia, in time for a successful inspection by the Peruvian Ministry of Culture. Volunteers also cleared and opened a new excavation site at Onoqochayos, and assisted with the maintenance and excavation works in the Machu Choquequirao Puquio sector of the Saqsayhuaman Archaeological Park. It was the first time that Projects Abroad volunteers were able to work on an Inca ceremonial site.

The team and volunteers completed the excavation units in Tantaestancia, Peru, in time for a successful inspection by the Peruvian Ministry of Culture



High School Special volunteers in Romania work on a dig site alongside professional archaeologists.

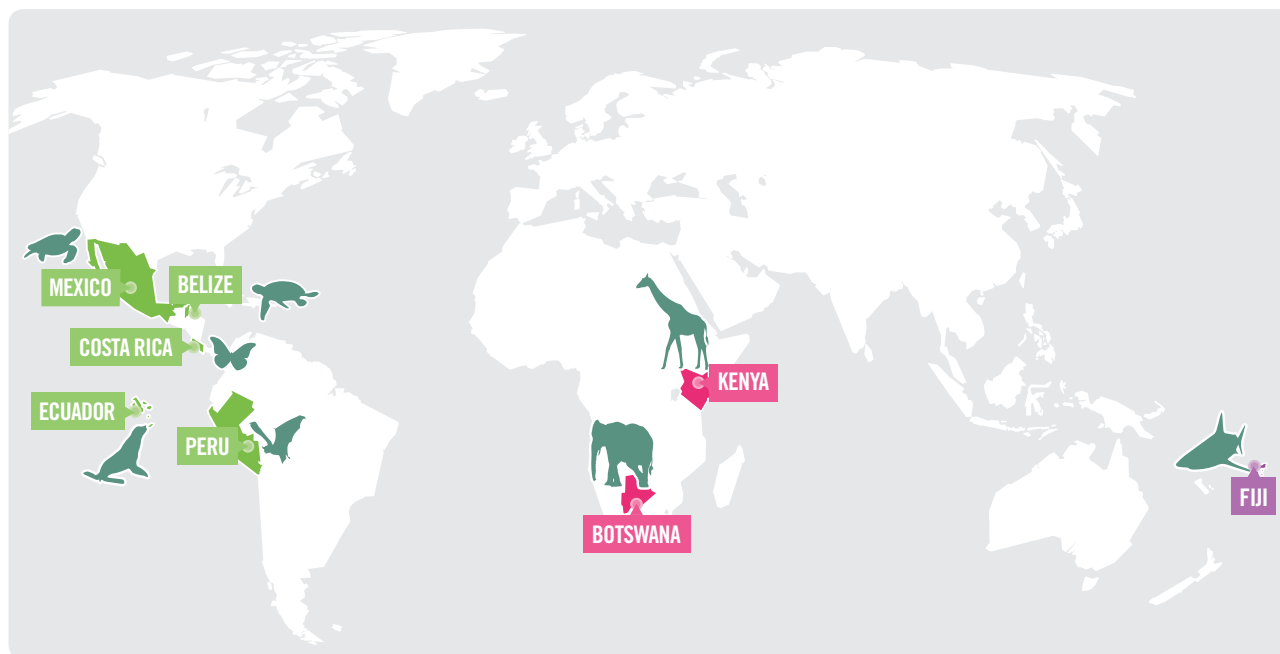




## Our Environmental Impact

In the three short months that our Conservation & Environment High School Special volunteer groups were in the field, they were able to:

### ...Complete 94 surveys



#### BOTSWANA

Volunteers completed 21 surveys during their trip.

- 4 bird surveys, 3 crocodile surveys, 8 mammal surveys, 4 elephant ID surveys and 2 baobab surveys were completed.
- Bird surveys are compiled for Projects Abroad by Bird Life Botswana. On average, 20 species of birds were identified on each survey.
- 5 to 8 crocodiles were observed at each survey. Crocodile surveys are used to monitor the health of the river system which is indicated by the number of crocodiles observed.
- Mammal surveys are being compiled into a 5-year observation document which will be used to present to the government, with the aim of creating more wildlife conservancies. Mammals spotted by the High School Special volunteers included impala, kudu, wildebeest, klip springers, zebra, grey duiker, steenbok, spotted hyena, leopard and elephants.
  - o Elephant IDs are used to understand and manage the population of the area, and baobab survey data is being compiled on the growth, health and utilisation of this specific tree by elephants.
  - o Since having built and equipped waterholes and introducing anti-poaching measures in the area, there has been a marked increase in mammal numbers.



Volunteers in Peru release baby turtles.

#### PERU

- 6 turtle censuses were completed: 1,082 eggs were rescued by High School Special volunteers from 46 nests.
- 25 bird surveys were completed from platforms and walkways: there are now 497 species of bird identified in Taricaya. Volunteers also helped with bird banding on 12 occasions to gather biometric data and tag birds.
- Bat netting on 6 occasions to do biodiversity studies of bats was completed.
- Data was collected from camera traps twice a week by the volunteers: 18 species of mammal were recorded.

#### FUJI

7 survey dives were completed and volunteers looked for and recorded shark, ray, and turtle species in the Beqa Lagoon. The High School Special volunteers sighted and recorded 4 critically endangered hawksbill turtles, 5 near threatened whitetip reef sharks, and 1 spotted eagle ray.

- The data collected was submitted to two different citizen science databases: eShark (eOceans) and Shark Base.

#### BELIZE

9 conch surveys and 14 megafauna surveys were done by the High School Special volunteers. The data collected was handed to the government Fisheries Department as baseline data for sea turtle diversity, abundance, and nesting at 2 marine reserves.

- There were 39 sightings of sea turtles and 4 captures for tagging.
- 6 turtle nests were discovered during nesting surveys.

#### COSTA RICA

Volunteers conducted 20 monkey surveys, 14 butterfly surveys (200 species caught), caterpillar surveys, and the volunteers worked on the bat project. Data is used to study the effects of climate change.



Volunteers and staff study a butterfly's markings in Costa Rica.



**KENYA**

High School Special volunteers completed:

- 4 giraffe surveys to understand population growth.
- 4 sessions of lion monitoring to document information on population dynamics.
- 4 bird surveys (over 450 species have now been recorded; birds are important indicators of overall health of the ecosystem).

**ECUADOR**

High School Special volunteers joined in sea lion monitoring 3 times a week, iguana monitoring once a week, marine birds were observed once a week, and petrel seabirds once every 2 weeks.

- Data collected from these surveys is shared with the understaffed National Park, who pass on official reports to the Ministry of Environment. We have noted, for example, a decrease in the rat population near the petrel's nesting area, which could indicate a rise in the petrel population on the island.



Sea lions in Ecuador are spotted resting on the beach.

**MEXICO**

- 243 turtle nests were collected during patrols. The role of the High School Special volunteers was to collect data such as the number of eggs, the beach zone and the GPS location of the eggs before poachers steal the eggs from the nests.
- 30 bird surveys in the estuary of Palo Verde were completed to help gather important data like the GPS location, species richness, and abundance of the birds.

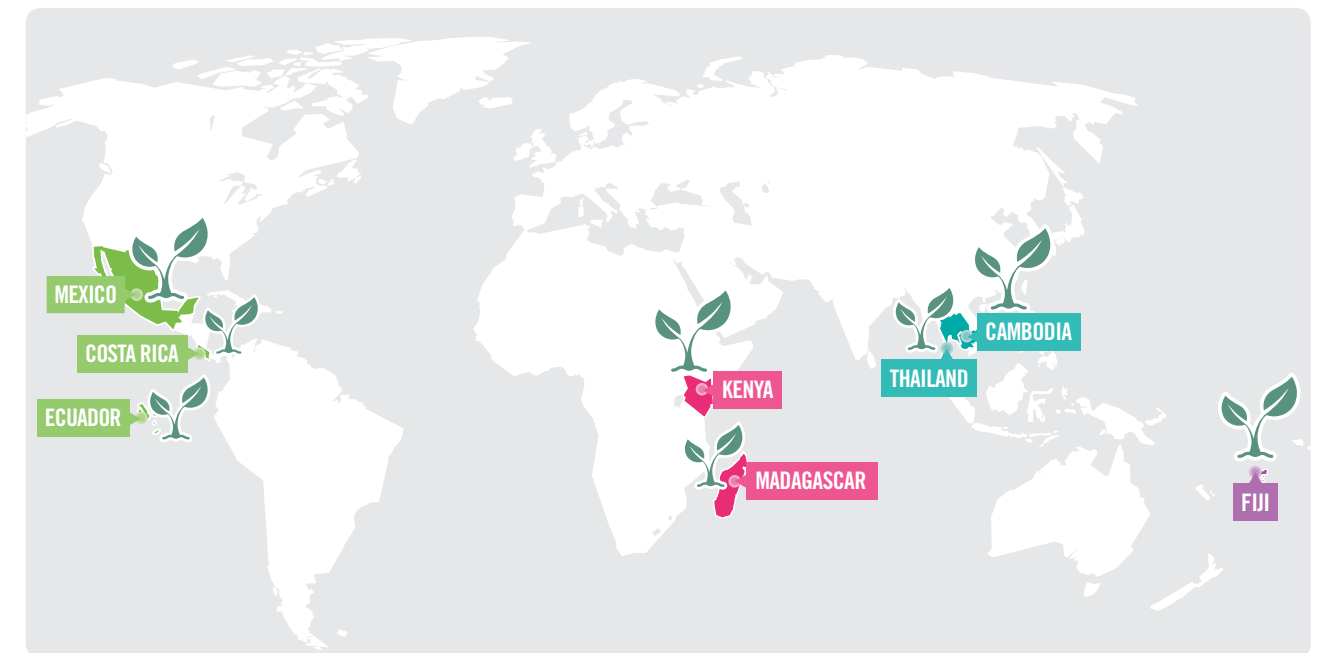


In Mexico, a High School Special volunteer works to protect turtle eggs.

**VOLUNTEER STORY:**

"We went out on ATVs to search for turtle nests on the beach so that we could take the eggs and rebury them in a safe spot at Tortugario. This was an important task which helped to protect them from predators, both human and animal... After the discovery of my first nest, I was surprised that the eggs were so soft and that each turtle could lay so many (over 100 for some nests). I found 3 nests over the course of the 4 night patrols I did during my time there and each patrol was amazing."

— SOPHIE WEICH, Sea Turtle & Coastal Conservation in Mexico High School Special

**...Plant 13,407 trees**

A High School student and staff member in Costa Rica plant a tree.

**THE NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED PER COUNTRY:****CAMBODIA**

400 red mangrove trees. Sticklings were also collected and planted on site.

**MADAGASCAR**

3,000 young trees in a tree nursery.

**KENYA**

300 saplings of different species.

**ECUADOR**

500 miconia trees at the Junco Lagoon.

**COSTA RICA**

800 trees.

**THAILAND**

3,060 mangroves.

**MEXICO**

2,197 red and white mangroves.

**FIJI**

High School Special volunteers planted approximately 2,500 mangrove propagules in the nursery. They also assisted with weeding, reorganising, and general maintenance of the nursery.

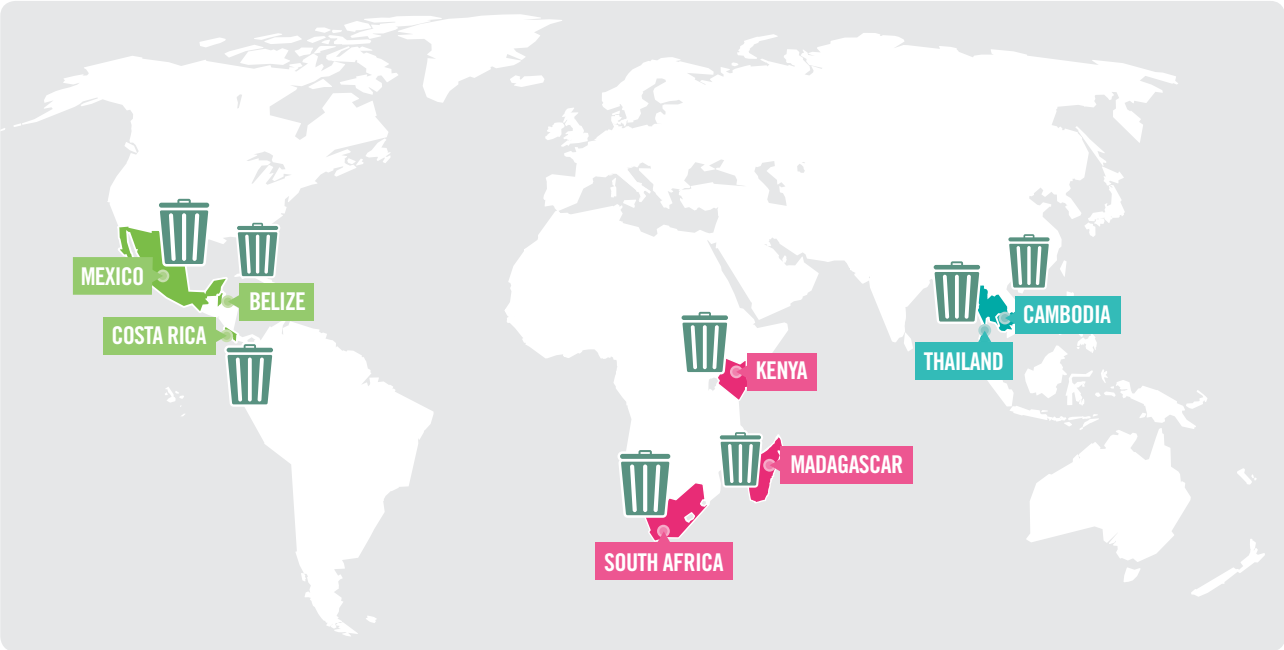
- 650 mangroves were also planted at a kindergarten in Komave, which is located on the coastline and doesn't have a sea wall. These mangroves will help protect the school and surrounding village from wave action.



A High School Special volunteer in Fiji works to preserve mangroves.



...Collect 2,866 kg of rubbish



THE AMOUNT OF RUBBISH COLLECTED PER COUNTRY:

<b>BELIZE</b> 1,368 kg of rubbish from beaches, islands and the coastline.	<b>KENYA</b> 15 kg of plastic bags and plastic bottles along the shores of Lake Elementaita.
<b>COSTA RICA</b> 217 kg worth of rubbish in villages around the national park.	<b>CAMBODIA</b> 571 kg of rubbish (of which 169 kg were recyclables) during beach, school, and village clean-ups. All money from recyclable material was then donated to the local school.
<b>MEXICO</b> 189 kg of rubbish from local beaches.	<b>MADAGASCAR</b> 30 kg of recyclable materials from the local village.
<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b> 13 bags of rubbish along 12 km of river and beach stretches.	



A garbage bag is filled with rubbish after a beach clean up by High School Special volunteers.

...Give 7 awareness talks

- In Belize, a documentary called “Reef of Riches” was shown to 46 children aged between 9 - 17 years old. This was done to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of coral reefs, and the impact of coral bleaching around the world.
- Volunteers gave 4 educational talks in Madagascar, discussing proper waste management and the importance of recycling.
- Volunteers in Kenya gave educational talks at 2 schools, planted trees, and showed documentaries on local wildlife and the challenges faced in conservation efforts.



A staff member spears the invasive lionfish in Belize.

Additional Conservation efforts



High School Special volunteers in Botswana take a break during their survey work.

- In Botswana, all activities carried out by the High School Special volunteers have contributed to the ongoing protection of the biodiversity and wildlife of the area.
  - o Volunteers worked on soil erosion control, by planting approximately 100 wooden stakes over 0.5 km², and weaving saplings through them to harness some of the water into small earth water points. They established grass cover, with the aim of slowing down the velocity of water when it rains.
  - o High School Special volunteers maintained 10 solar panels used to pump water for animals, in order to improve their efficiency.
  - o To clear it in preparation for summer rains so that animals can access the fresh water, 3m³ of sand was removed from a dam wall.
- 4 anti-poaching patrols and the removal of 32 snares were completed. The volunteers found a freshly snared impala ram, and old remains of another snared animal, which proves how deadly these traps can be for local wildlife.
- In Botswana, volunteers removed 50 live snares and several old wires were collected during anti-poaching initiatives.
- In Belize, volunteers participated in 15 lionfish dives. Lionfish are an invasive species threatening native species in the Belize Barrier Reef, so volunteers remove them. Our High School Special volunteers eradicated a total of 211 lionfish.
- In Madagascar, volunteers built 3 incinerators and 1 eco-stove for local families.
- In Costa Rica, volunteers built a new bamboo viewpoint house in Barra Honda National Park.
- In Mexico, volunteers took part in the reptile programme at Tortugario Ecological Centre, which sees volunteers checking and maintaining traps in the field. The goal of the traps is to put together a list of reptiles in the area and identify different species.
- In Argentina, volunteers helped at a large but understaffed animal reserve during their high season. The reserve raises funds thanks to visitors, so they benefit from attracting more visitors. Volunteers helped renovate the restaurant inside the reserve for this very purpose.



## During Summer 2017, Projects Abroad High School Specials:

**Hosted over 1,700 student volunteers**  
from over 60 countries around the world

---

Assisted with educational activities for  
**more than 3,500 children**

---

**Ran over 100 medical outreaches**  
benefitting 5,500 people

---

**Completed 94**  
Conservation & Environment surveys

---

**Collected 2,866 kg of rubbish**

---

**Planted more than 13,407 trees**

We believe a more compassionate world begins with connecting cultures. By exploring and learning from each other we will create a generation of global-minded leaders.