

# Australian Volunteers Program in Kiribati

In 2020-21 the Australian Volunteers Program in Kiribati supported six volunteers and five partner organisations, with a focus on health security and economic recovery, both priority areas due to the impact of COVID-19.

*'With support from the volunteers we now have a strategic plan and key documents, including those vital to the process of pitching for more funding.'*

– Partner organisation spokesperson

## In 2020-21 in Kiribati, the program supported:

**5**  
partner organisations

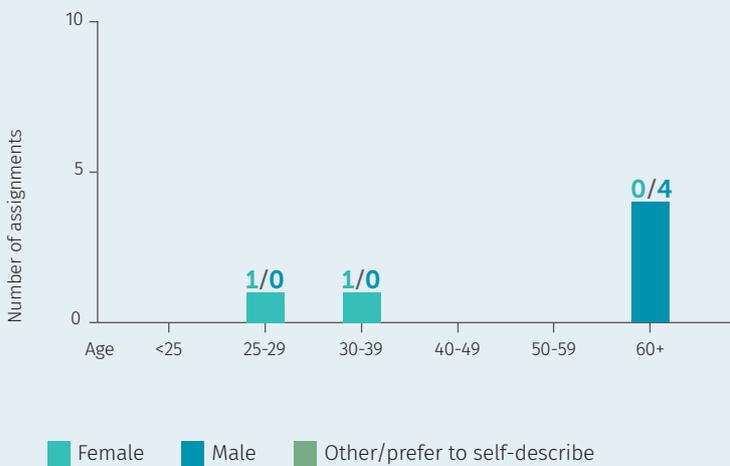
**3**  
partner organisations with Impact Grants

**6**  
volunteers

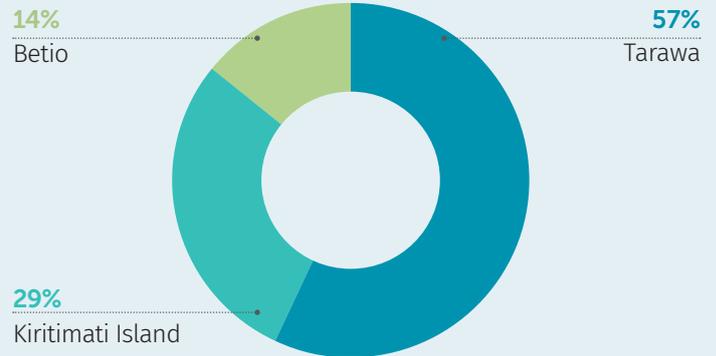
**7**  
remote assignments

### Gender and age of volunteers

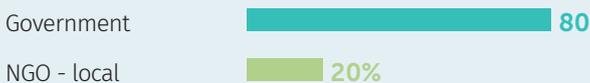
Women 33% Men 67%



### Location of assignments



### Most common types of partner organisations



### Most common professions of volunteers



In 2020-21, in accordance with Australia's COVID-19 Development Response Plan, the Australian Volunteers Program supported partner organisations to implement their response and recovery efforts, aligned with Kiribati's local and national priorities.

Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, the program shifted to supporting partner organisations through remote volunteering. Volunteers assisted five partner organisations focusing on health security and economic recovery, both COVID-19 response and recovery priority areas.

Most assignments were with partner organisations located in Tarawa, a geographic priority of the Kiribati Government and where organisations with the resources necessary to support remote volunteering are located. All partner organisations were in government and civil society sectors.

Support was provided through seven remote assignments with the Kiribati Women and Children Support Centre, Judiciary of Kiribati, Kiribati Urban Council, Office of Public Legal Services, and the Kiribati Broadcasting and Publication Authority. Some partner organisations were also assisted by the program to strengthen their child protection policies.

Three partner organisations received a small grant through Australian Volunteers Program Impact Fund, including the Kiritimati Urban Council, the Kiribati Women and Children Support Centre and the Kiribati Broadcasting and Publication Authority.

The program celebrated and promoted international volunteering through International Volunteer Day events that enabled the program to engage existing and potential partner organisations, as well as understand their priorities for volunteer assignments.



*Kiribati Women and Children Support Centre donors, partners and stakeholders. Photo: Supplied by Kiribati Women and Children Support Centre.*

### Spotlight on The Broadcasting and Publications Authority

The Broadcasting and Publications Authority in Kiribati aims to inform, educate, and entertain its audience by providing quality radio programs and newspapers. As the only broadcaster to all inhabited islands of Kiribati, it plays a key part in distributing important information to people living on the islands.

Between 2019 and 2021, Australian volunteer Paul Semple completed two assignments that helped improve the organisational, editorial, and networking capacity of staff.

With Paul's support, the journalists boosted their editorial skills, were trained in taking an investigative and informative approach to politics, business, sport, and natural disasters stories, and encouraged to report on wider range of issues. The diversity of reporters employed at the Broadcasting and Publications Authority was also improved.

The Broadcasting and Publications Authority received support from the Australian Volunteers Program Impact Fund in 2021. This will fund specialised equipment to boost radio transmission to Kiribati's remote and outer islands and improve community awareness of important messages about COVID-19 and natural disasters.

The Broadcasting and Publications Authority's involvement with the Australian Volunteers Program has been transformative for its staff. Its journalists now confidently gather and report the news in a more thorough, cohesive, and effective way.

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