

Australian Volunteers Program in Nepal

In 2020-21 the Australian Volunteers Program in Nepal supported eight volunteers and seven partner organisations, while establishing relationships with new government and semi-government partner organisations.

'Although my remote volunteering assignment has ended, I intend to remain in contact with my partner organisation and when face-to-face teaching returns, I will assist in any way I can.'

– Remote volunteer

In 2020-21 in Nepal, the program supported:

7
partner organisations

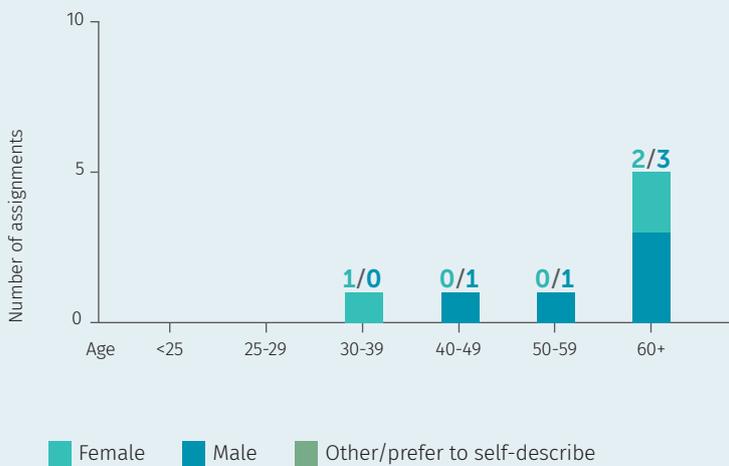
1
partner organisation with an Impact Grant

8
volunteers

8
remote assignments

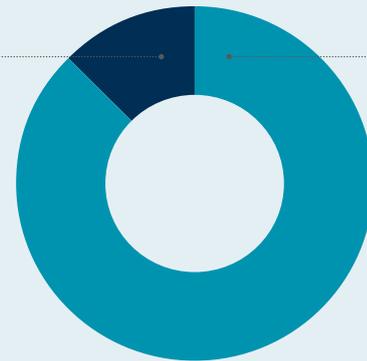
Gender and age of volunteers

Women 38% Men 62%

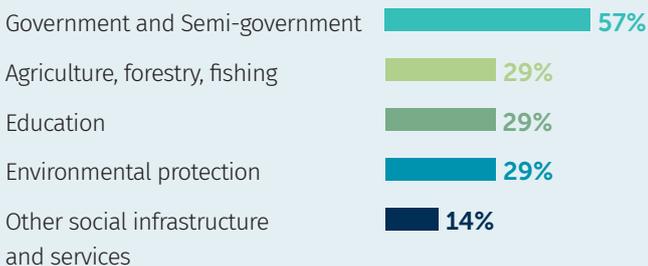


Location of assignments

12.5% Lalitpur 87.5% Kathmandu



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 Nepal's local and national priorities

The program focused on supporting Nepalese partner organisations and identifying new opportunities for remote volunteers, as well as establishing relationships with new government and semi-government partner organisations. These included the Tribhuvan University's Institute of Forestry and the Kathmandu Valley Water Supply Management Board.

The program supported eight remote assignments with seven partner organisations, all located in Kathmandu Valley, including Kathmandu and Lalitpur districts. Most partner organisations worked in government and semi-government.

Several partner organisations embraced remote volunteering, and there remains significant scope for remote volunteers to continue to assist Nepalese partner organisations to achieve their humanitarian and development goals in the future. Most volunteers expressed interest in further assignments with their Nepalese partner organisations.

The Ministry of Environment received a small grant through Australian Volunteers Program Impact Fund to enhance community resilience of indigenous women and young people in Nepal through their engagement and work with the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Participants learnt to apply nature-based solutions that address climate change impacts.

During this time, the program enabled and promoted international volunteering in Nepal. A remote volunteer organised a webinar in which an Australian local government highlighted the importance of open data in local government. The event was attended by five local governments of Nepal.



Douglas Wilson, a Veterinary Clinician is Volunteering with Australian Volunteers Program for partner organisation, the Agriculture and Forestry University at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Chitwan, Nepal. Pictured with Senior Vet Pathology Technician, Ram Raj Bhandary, in the Histopathology lab. Photo: Teagan Glenane.

Spotlight on The Kathmandu University's School of Arts

The Kathmandu University's School of Arts educates students in liberal arts, music, media and social sciences. The University established a Disability Research Centre – a first of its kind in Kathmandu – with the aim to build students' awareness of the challenges people living with disability face day-to-day.

In 2019 and 2020, Australian volunteer Vicki Hannam supported the School of Arts to develop a 12-week course focused on issues affecting people living with disability, including mental health. This valuable content has been added to the University's disability management course, with the end goal being Nepal's first disability management degree.

With the support of the Australian Volunteers Program Impact Fund, Vicki was able to mentor staff to improve interdepartmental collaboration. She also helped forge new links between the University and partner organisations supporting people living with disability.

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